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SOME ASPECTS OF POST-WAR MIGRATION TO EDMONTON, ALBERTA

by

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A THESIS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for acceptance, a thesis entitled Some Aspects of Post-War Migration to Edmonton, Alberta submitted by Mona S. King in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts



## ABSTRACT

The research reported here sought to describe and analyse some major aspects of the pattern of post-war migration to Edmonton, and to identify some of the ways in which post-war migrants comprise a distinctive socio-economic segment of the local population. The analysis is set within the framework of the "Push-Pull" theory of migration.

Research findings indicate that migration to Edmonton in the post-World War II period tends to be highly selective of place of birth, sex, age, marital status, family size, education, and occupation. Post-war migrants tend to be mostly British, or German, or Dutch, if they are immigrants; and if they are internal migrants, they tend to come mostly from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, or Ontario. In general, migrants tend to be male, rather than female; to be single; to have small-sized families, if they were married; to be fairly well educated; and to belong to a skilled or semi-skilled occupation. Their migration to Edmonton was motivated mainly by economic considerations.

In addition, a number of important differences among migrant groups are revealed. These are discussed in the text. The changes which have taken place over time are also analysed, as are some of the important differences revealed between the overall migrant group and the general population of Edmonton.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Chapter I

### METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In the course of the past twenty-five years, the city of Edmonton has increased its population by over 300,000 persons of which a significant proportion has been due to the migration of people from abroad and from other parts of Canada.<sup>1</sup> The principal object of this research was to measure and describe the characteristics and pattern of movement of this segment of the local population.

Until the present research was undertaken, no data existed concerning these persons, and information about the movement of persons within the province of Alberta was particularly deficient. Moreover, no information has ever been collected on a local sample concerning reasons for migration. The research reported here therefore aimed at filling gaps in knowledge by providing information about local migration dynamics which did not exist before, or was known or surmised only vaguely or in general outline.

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<sup>1</sup>For example, of the total city population in 1961, roughly one-quarter were immigrants, and 13.4 percent of the population had immigrated to Edmonton since 1946 (Canada, D.B.S., Census of Canada 1961).



## THE DATA AND DATA SOURCES

The basic questions to which answers are sought in this study are: Who are the migrants? Where did they come from? Why did they migrate to Edmonton? What are the consequences of their migration? Each of these questions is concerned with a particular set of variables which include: (a) the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the migrants such as their age, sex, marital status, family size, ethnic and religious composition, education and occupation; and such personality factors as their aspirations and social adjustment; (b) the country or province of origin; (c) the reasons for leaving their place of origin, as well as their reasons for choosing Edmonton as their place of destination; (d) their satisfaction with life in Alberta, their likes and dislikes about Edmonton, and their plans for permanent residence in the city.

These variables were among several covered by questions asked during a sample survey of the migrants which was undertaken in January and February, 1971.<sup>2</sup> The survey was so designed as to be representative of all heads of households and their dependents who had migrated to Edmonton since the beginning of 1947, if they were still resident in the city at the time of the survey. This study

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The Questionnaire used during the survey is given in Appendix A.





therefore does not deal with the entire migrant population of Edmonton, but only with those migrants who entered the city since the end of the second World War.

In addition to the information gathered in the field, data for comparative purposes were obtained from Canadian census reports, especially those of 1961 and 1966, concerning various characteristics of the general population in Edmonton. Use was also made of statistics supplied by the Department of Manpower and Immigration concerning some characteristics of Canada's immigrant population.

#### Overall Sample Design of the Field Survey

The sample survey of post-war migrants in Edmonton was undertaken as part of a broader research project on population migration in the province of Alberta.<sup>3</sup> The survey was the first major probability sample conducted in the province, and is one of the very few of its kind in Canada which embodied all the principal steps of a sample survey weighted as minutely as to two decimal places.

The first task in designing the survey called for a statement

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#### 3

The project was commissioned by the Government of Alberta Human Resources Research Council, and the principal investigator was Dr. F. Sukdeo of the Department of Sociology, University of Alberta. The full report of the research undertaking by Dr. Sukdeo is to be published by the Council at a later date.



of objectives which the principal investigator outlined as follows:

- (a) To investigate the role of the immigrant population in Alberta and their problems in adjusting to provincial conditions.
- (b) To determine to what extent immigrants differ from the rest of the population in the province.
- (c) To determine how Alberta compared to the rest of Canada in absorbing immigrants.
- (d) To determine the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the immigrant population as compared to the rest of the population in the province.
- (e) To analyse the historic trends of immigration to Alberta in the context of demographic and economic growth.

Following this, the sample and sample frame was designed. There was an awareness that conclusions drawn from the sample would apply only to the population from which the sample was drawn. After considerable analysis of the constraints of time, financial and manpower resources, it was decided to draw a sample of equal proportions from the two metropolitan areas of Alberta, rather than from the whole province. The survey was conducted simultaneously in Calgary and Edmonton, but the data used in this thesis relate only to the Edmonton area.

The sample frame consisted of the three units to be sampled, namely, immigrants, interprovincial migrants, and Albertans. The survey theoretically called for a total sample of 1,000 households, 500 of which were to be in Edmonton. In effect, data were collected



from 474 respondents in Edmonton, representing 206 immigrants, 192 interprovincial migrants, and 76 Albertans. The final data used in this thesis represented 465 respondents, of which 206 were immigrants, 192 were interprovincial migrants, and 67 were intraprovincial migrants. The remaining 9 Albertans were not true migrants, as defined for the purposes of this analysis, and were therefore eliminated from the study.

In order to satisfy the number in the sample design, it was decided to stratify the sample in a self-weighting scheme that allowed each household to have the same chance of selection. As a first step in this direction, there were to be higher sampling ratios in those strata where the proportion of post-war immigrants was higher. In order to offset a large sampling error by this device alone, it was decided to conduct a larger first-phase sample in which every household would be identified, and from this all post-war immigrants would be sampled, but only a proportion of interprovincial migrants and Albertans. This approach is scientifically justified in sampling theory.

Information concerning the proportion of each of the three migrant types in each Enumeration Area, as defined by the 1966 Census of Canada, was supplied, being derived mostly from the 1961 Census. The first task was to trace the three migrant types by means of a foot-listing of their addresses. This was done in November, 1970, for 56 Enumeration Areas in Edmonton. For the first-phase sample,



1,500 households were selected in Edmonton for face-to-face interviewing in order to identify each household as either immigrant, interprovincial migrant, or Albertan. In the second phase, 474 households were interviewed, using the Survey Questionnaire, in January and February, 1971.<sup>4</sup>

The Questionnaire itself was pre-tested and refined several times prior to the final survey. In addition to the variables with which this study was concerned, it was designed to also provide information on the following topics:

(1) Actual living conditions of the migrants.

(2) Employment opportunities for immigrants.

(3) Cultural problems, for example, language difficulties, acculturation, identification with the host country, adoption of new sets of beliefs, in-group relationships with immigrants from their own country, degree of nostalgia, and so on.

(4) Role of the institutions that cater for immigrants, such as churches and other social organizations.

(5) Function of official and quasi-official organizations which cater for immigrants.

(6) Factors contributing not only to interprovincial and intra-provincial migration but also to re-migration.

(7) Experience in upward social mobility.

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The principal investigator commissioned Dr. Ivan Fellegi, head of the Programming and Sample Survey Section of Statistics Canada, to do the selection of Enumeration Areas, the number of respondents, and the weights to be assigned to each E.A. For a detailed documentation, See F. Sukdeo, Some Inputs in the Design of a Sample Survey, Report No.3. Alberta H.R.R.C., Edmonton, 1971.





- (8) Adjustments in family size - fertility analysis.
- (9) Role in encouraging other immigrants to come to Alberta.
- (10) Acquiring Canadian citizenship

The Questionnaire therefore enabled a substantial amount of information to be gathered concerning the migrants and their families. The bias was sociological; hence, much of the data obtained was not included in this study.

The Survey Research Centre of York University was contracted to undertake all field operations. Their contribution has therefore been substantial and has lent enhancement to the quality of the information obtained. Several innovations were adopted during subsequent office processing of the data. Key-punching was planned to be done directly from the Questionnaire, and special coders were assigned to code all open-ended questions. An edit programme had to be operationalized to check for coding and card punching errors. The data were then processed from IBM cards.<sup>5</sup>

#### APPROACH TO THE ANALYSIS

The study is based primarily on the field survey data, and

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<sup>5</sup>The various stages involved in the data collection and processing are documented . See F. Sukdeo, Alberta Migration Project, Reports Nos.1-10. Alberta Human Resources Research Council, Edmonton, 1971.



the approach is mainly descriptive analytical based on simple and multiple cross-tabulations of the data employing sub-programme CROSSTABS designed for the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).<sup>6</sup> Interpretation of the tabular print-outs was made with reference to the general hypotheses and statements of migration theory which are described in detail in the following section of this chapter.

One of the major limitations with which the analysis was faced was the unavailability of historical census data for the purpose of comparison. For example, it would have been desirable to assess the characteristics of the migrant population at each of the various places from which the migrants originated. Such an assessment necessitated securing information referring to the specific year in which each migration occurred. That information is unavailable for migrants originating in Canada, and it would have proved a rather insurmountable task to obtain them for immigrants.

Because of this, the scope of the comparative parts of the study is restricted to analysing the characteristics of the migrants in terms of the differences which are revealed between them and the overall population in Edmonton. This approach finds justification in a general hypothesis of migration which states that migrants display

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N.H.Nie, D.H.Bent and C.H.Hull, SPSS Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, Provisional User's Manual. Stanford Univ., November 1968. See also, the sample of a CROSSTABS out-put provided in this report, Appendix B.



characteristics different not only from those at their place of origin but also from those at their place of destination.<sup>7</sup>

In approaching the comparisons in this way, however, another limitation is immediately revealed. This concerns the use of population statistics from the 1961 and 1966 censuses of Canada. Practically all the characteristics of the overall population in Edmonton relate to the census date in 1961 or 1966; whereas the characteristics of the migrant population used in the analysis relate to January or February, 1971, the date of the field survey. Thus, there is at least a four-and-a-half year discrepancy between the two sets of data. Obviously, this error is non-meaningful in the case of such constant characteristics as sex, ethnicity, birthplace and, perhaps, religion. However, comparisons between the migrant and general population of Edmonton in terms of those characteristics such as age, household composition, education, and occupation should be examined with caution. This limitation applies only to Chapter III.

In addition, the analysis at times excludes one of the three sub-groups of migrants, namely, migrants originating in the province of Alberta. These persons are referred to as Intraprovincial Migrants. Some of the questions listed in the Survey Questionnaire were not asked of them simply because the broader research undertaking

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<sup>7</sup>E.S.Lee, "A Theory of Migration." Demography, Vol.3, No.1, 1966, pp.47-57; See also, J.J.Mangalam, Human Migration: A Guide to Migration Literature in English, 1955-1962. University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, Kentucky, 1968 (Introductory Chapter).



on migration in Alberta did not call for a definition of Alberta-born persons as migrants, whereas this study did. This limitation applies to a few parts of Chapters IV and V.

### THEORETICAL BASIS OF THE ANALYSIS

Population Geographers, as well as other social scientists, have used many different approaches in the study of migration. For example, the gravitational concept of human interaction has been used by Zipf.<sup>8</sup> Hagerstrand,<sup>9</sup> Kulldorf,<sup>10</sup> and Morrill<sup>11</sup> employed migration probabilities; and the "Push-Pull" approach has been used by Lee<sup>12</sup> as well as by a host of other researchers. This latter approach is the basis upon which the present study rests.

"Push-Pull" theory is the end result of the very first attempt by researchers to regularize and pattern migration. It found its first expression towards the end of the last century in the so-

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G.Zipf, "The  $P_1 P_2 / D$  Hypothesis: On the Inter-city Movement of Persons." Amer. Soc. Rev., Dec. 1946, pp.677-686.

9

T.Hagerstrand, "Migration and Area: Survey of a Sample of Swedish Migration Fields and Hypothetical Considerations on their Genesis," in Migration in Sweden: A Symposium, Lund Studies in Geography, No.13. Dept. of Geography, The Royal Univ. of Lund, Sweden, 1957.

10

G.Kulldorf, Migration Probabilities, Lund Studies in Geography, Series B, Human Geography, No.14. Dept. of Geography, The Royal Univ. of Lund, Sweden, 1957.

11

R.L.Morrill, Migration and the Spread and Growth of Urban Settlement, Lund Studies in Geography, Series B, No.26. Dept. of Geography, The Royal Univ. of Lund, Sweden, 1965.

12

E.S.Lee, "A Theory of Migration." op. cit.







called Laws of Migration first enunciated by Ravenstein,<sup>13</sup> later modified by Thomas<sup>14</sup> and Stouffer,<sup>15</sup> and most recently improved and codified by Lee.<sup>16</sup> As described by Lee, these laws are really a set of loosely related statements describing the characteristics of the migrants and volume of migration in relation to the migrants' places of origin and destination.

Lee assumed, first of all, that migration is consequent upon a series of interacting factors comprised of a set of attractive, repelling, and neutral factors at both places of origin and destination; a set of intervening opportunities or intervening obstacles; and a series of personal factors. Attractive factors might include, for example, superior opportunities for employment, marriage, or education; more desirable living conditions; and dependency on the person or persons who made the initial move. Repelling factors might include low income; decline in employment opportunities; retirement; political, racial, or religious oppression; unfavourable

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<sup>13</sup>

E.G.Ravenstein, "Laws of Migration." Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Vol.XLVII, Part 2, June 1885, pp.167-227; and Vol.LII, June 1889, pp.241-301.

<sup>14</sup>

D.S.Thomas, Research Memorandum on Migration Differentials. Social Science Res. Council, New York, 1938, pp.175-268.

<sup>15</sup>

S.A.Stouffer, "Intervening Opportunities: A Theory Relating to Mobility and Distance." Amer. Soc. Rev., Vol.5, No.6, 1940, pp.845-867; and "Intervening Opportunities and Competing Migrants." Journal of Regional Science, Vol.2, 1960, pp.1-26.

<sup>16</sup>

E.S.Lee, op. cit.



climatic conditions; and natural disasters. Neutral factors are those to which most people respond in essentially the same way. Intervening obstacles comprised distance; transport costs; prohibitive immigration laws; children and other impedimenta; while intervening opportunities were the number of alternative places of destination along the migratory route. Finally, personal factors included the migrants' knowledge of the place of destination; fear of change; and their varying perceptions of similar attractive and repelling factors. A schematic diagram of these interacting factors is presented in Figure 1.

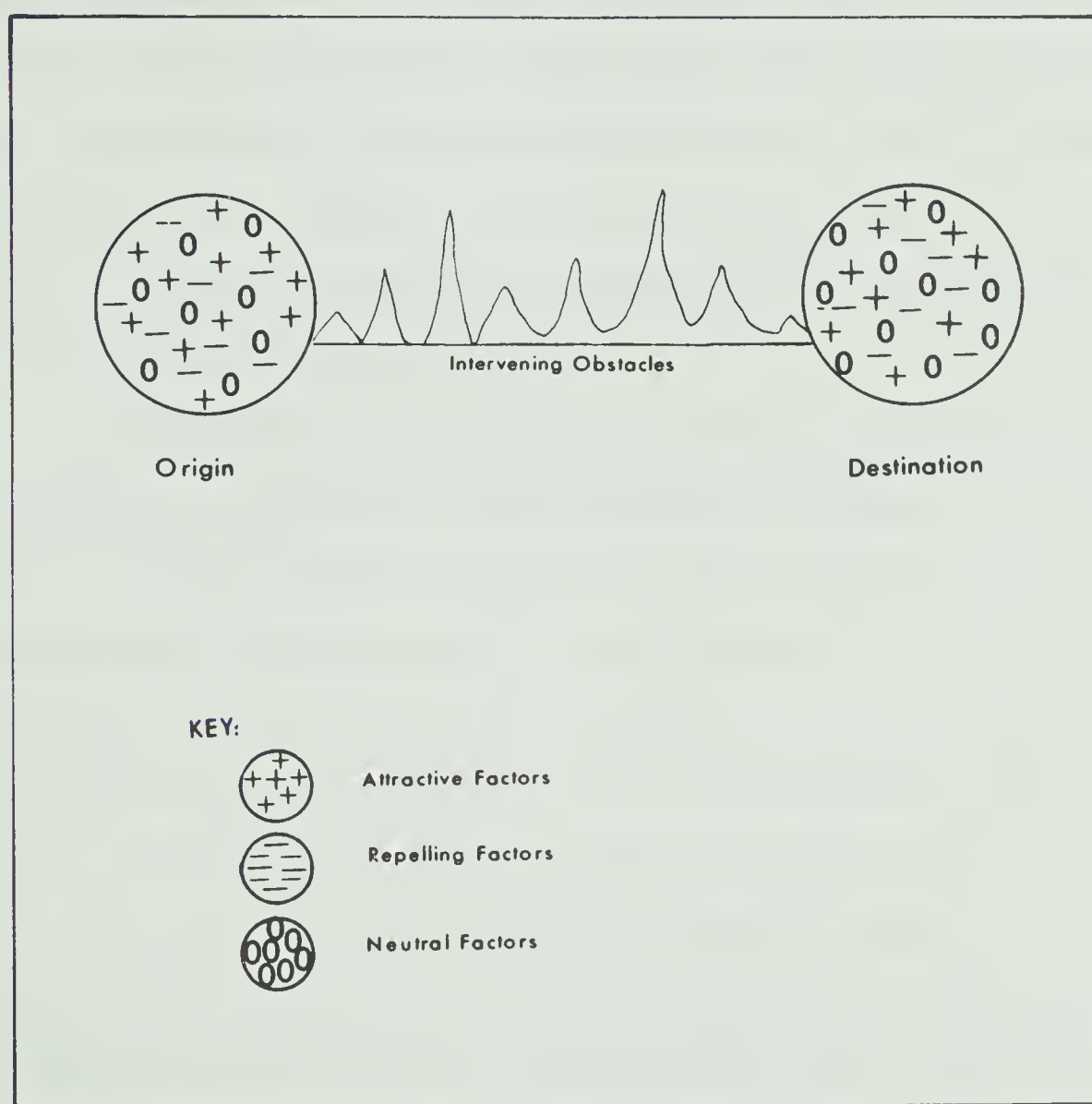
On the basis of these assumptions, Lee offered nineteen hypotheses, six of which concern volume of migration between pairs of places, six dealing with streams and counterstreams of migrants, and seven having to do with the characteristics of the migrants. Five of these hypotheses have particular relevance to this study. They are:

(1) The volume of migration is related to the difficulty of surmounting the intervening obstacles. This hypothesis hardly needs elaboration. There are many instances in history where the removal of obstacles have set in motion large flows of migrants, and others where the imposition of barriers have minimized or even cut off long-established flows of migrants. A recent case in point is the change in British immigration policy during the past year which has effectively reduced the flow of Commonwealth immigrants who had for years been given preferential treatment. In 1967, Canada also changed its immigration policy of favouring British and European migration, and by so doing facilitated the entry of immigrants from other parts



Figure 1

# ORIGIN AND DESTINATION FACTORS AND INTERVENING OBSTACLES IN MIGRATION



Source: Lee, 1966



of the world.

(2) The volume of migration varies with fluctuations in the economy. To be more explicit, migration tends to be heavy during prosperous periods, and low during periods of depression.

(3) Migration tends to take place largely within well-defined routes toward highly specific destinations. In the case of internal migration, migrants tend to gravitate from rural areas to urban areas, from small urban areas to larger urban areas, and between metropolitan areas. In the case of international migration, migrants tend to move from less developed countries to more advanced countries.

(4) Migration is selective of characteristics of migrants such as sex, age, and place of origin.

(5) The heightened propensity to migrate at certain stages of the life cycle is important in the selection of migrants. For example, persons who enter the labour force or get married tend to migrate from the parental home, while persons who are divorced or widowed also tend to move away. These events usually occur at well defined stages in people's lives and are thus important in establishing such types of migration selection as age, marital status, and family size.

Lee's hypotheses constitute the Push-Pull theory of migration, since "push" refers to the repelling factors, and "pull" refers to the attractive factors previously mentioned. The theory does not completely explain migration in all its various forms, but it remains significant in migration analysis because many of its broad generalizations have been shown to be correct when applied to specific areas.





Most studies based on this theory have used as their dominant themes "distance" and "economic opportunity." There is general agreement over the distance theme, for most researchers have found that females tend to predominate over males in short-distance migration. On the other hand, the economic opportunity theme seems to have attracted the most attention. This theme is evident in the expressed notion that migration may be primarily explained as a phenomenon of the labour market, that it "acts as a mechanism for partial adjustment of population distribution to the location of economic opportunities,"<sup>17</sup> or that it is the result of "geographic differences in the productivity of labour which, in turn, produces wage differentials."<sup>18</sup> Researchers who adhere to this notion say that migrants generally comprise a significant group within the labour force, for they are the ones who possess highly specialized skills who migrate to maintain or improve their economic position. Accordingly, migrants play a major role in shaping the economic and cultural fabric of a nation and their mobility is necessary to meet the changing needs of industries and regional economies.

Nevertheless, not all migrants move in the direction of

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17

United Nations, Population Division of the Dept. of Social Affairs, The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends, Population Studies No.17. United Nations, New York, 1953.

18

I.S.Lowry, Migration and Metropolitan Growth: Two Analytical Models. Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Univ. of California, Chandler, San Francisco, 1966; and L.A.Sjaastad, "Relationship Between Migration and Income in the U.S." Papers, Regional Science Association, Vol.VI, 1960, pp.37-64.



wages.<sup>19</sup> The world refugee problems of the past and present are sufficient testimony of this fact. So too are the mass migrations that usually follow natural disasters and, on a smaller scale, the migration of older or retired persons for health reasons. There is thus a need to also differentiate migration with respect to non-economic conditions, since economic factors are not always predominating.<sup>20</sup>

The ideas discussed in this section are explored in the analysis of post-war migrants to Edmonton. In terms of "Push-Pull" theory, the study is concerned with four specific inputs, namely: (1) the migrants; (2) their place of destination, defined as Edmonton; (3) the "push" factors at place of origin; and (4) the "pull" factors at place of destination. The four basic questions to which answers are sought in this study and the variables chosen for analysis have been previously defined. They were designed to provide a descriptive analysis of the above inputs.

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For excellent discussions of non-economic migrations, see E. Kant, "Classification and Problems of Migrations," in P.L. Wagner and M.W. Mikesell (eds.), Readings in Cultural Geography. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1962, pp.342-354; D.J. Bogue, "Internal Migration," in P.M. Hauser and O.D. Duncan (eds.), The Study of Population. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1959, pp.486-509; and W. Petersen, "A General Typology of Migration." Amer. Soc. Rev., June 1958, pp.256-265.

20

Recommendations concerning such an approach were suggested several years ago by W.I. Thomas and F. Znaniecki, Polish Peasant in Europe and America, Vols. I & II. Knopf, New York, 1927. However, most of these recommendations seem to have been ignored in research since that time.



## THE BASIC CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN THE ANALYSIS

The orientation of the study is largely determined by the operational definition of migration employed by the writer, and for this reason it is necessary to review this definition as well as some other concepts of migration which have particular reference for the analysis.

The concepts which are relevant to the study are "migration," "migrant," "place of origin," and "place of destination." A distinction also needs to be made between "internal migration" and "international migration" and, consequently, between "in-migrants" and "immigrants."

Migration

Definitions of migration are as varied as there are researchers of the topic since no consensus exists concerning what the term means. Geographers usually think of migration as a kind of physical movement of persons over a well-defined territory carried out on a more or less permanent basis, and most definitions which incorporate this notion of "movement over space" are found acceptable to them. An example of such a definition is that provided by Morrill<sup>21</sup> who

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21R.L. Morrill, Migration and the Spread . . . op.cit.



described migration as the process of population transfer which largely permitted the growth of certain areas at the expense of others. However, such other definitions as a "permanent or semi-permanent change of residence,"<sup>22</sup> or a "simple change of residence involving movement between communities,"<sup>23</sup> also find acceptance among geographers even though these were coined by sociologists.

The major difficulty in using most of these definitions stems from the fact that there generally is little agreement over what different researchers mean by the terms "areas", "community", "permanent", or "semi-permanent". Moreover, unlike geographers, sociologists and demographers tend to reject most definitions of migration which fail to acknowledge that migration is primarily an aspect of human behaviour which is controlled by a number of complex social and psychological factors, in addition to the physical ones. Such lack of agreement is a consequence of the difficulty in trying to quantify and describe many of the controlling variables of the migration phenomenon, a difficulty which necessarily places constraints upon our ability to obtain needed data and to analyse the topic as adequately as it should be analysed.

Attempts have been made, however, to reduce some of the

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E.S. Lee, "A Theory of Migration," op. cit.

23

D.J. Bogue, Principles of Demography. Wiley & Sons, New York, 1969.







controversy surrounding the question of definition by ascribing to the notion that migration is a kind of random behaviour which cannot be explained or defined.<sup>24</sup> Some researchers who hold this opinion even assert that one should not expect to arrive at a unique criterion or definition of migration since no objective, natural criterion exists on the basis of which migrants distinguish themselves from mere travelers.<sup>25</sup> As geographers, however, we seek to maintain the spatial aspect of the definition. Yet, there remains a number of questions to which answers have not been found. We can list a few of these. Is space to be treated as an absolute, with distance between places remaining constant and unchanging, or is the concept of "functional" space a more meaningful one? How far must a person travel before he can expect to be classified as a migrant? To be more explicit, is the person who travels half-a-mile across a provincial boundary a migrant, whereas the person who travels 700 miles within a province not a migrant? Also, if we must set up boundaries in order to distinguish migrants from non-migrants, are these boundaries to be administrative, geographical, or socio-psychological? How permanent must a change of residence be before the mover can attain migrant status? These questions are not merely academic. They form the very

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24

See, for example, D.S. Thomas, Research Memorandum . . ., op. cit.; and W. Petersen, Population. Macmillan, New York, 1961.

25

W. Petersen, ibid.



basis upon which a sound methodological framework for the study of migration must rest, and our inability to agree on answers to them gives rise to severe operational difficulties which often limit the comparability of otherwise similar research undertakings.

No attempt is made in this study to find solutions to the problems outlined above because the writer believes that no solutions can be found until a sufficiently large volume of empirical data is built up which could then be used as guidelines in formulating a truly sound theory of migration. For these reasons, the definition of migration which is employed in this study is one given by the United Nations.<sup>26</sup> It states that migration is "a type of geographical mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change of residence from the place of origin or place of departure, to the place of destination or place of arrival." Thus, migration, as a type of geographical or spatial mobility, is to be distinguished from social mobility which refers to a change in socio-economic status. Geographical mobility often precedes or follows social mobility, but not always.

Migration may also be classified according to whether it occurs within a given sovereign state, or between different sovereign states. The former type consists of movement between different parts

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26

United Nations, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Multilingual Dictionary, English Section. United Nations, New York, 1958, pp.46-48.



of the state, and is called internal migration; whereas the latter is called international migration.<sup>27</sup>

### Migrant

A migrant is anyone who migrates.<sup>28</sup> In practice, however, it is often difficult to distinguish between migrants and visitors, but a distinction is often attempted on the length of residence at the place of destination. In any event, persons involved in internal migration are described as in-migrants, or out-migrants, depending on their direction of movement. Persons involved in international migration are called immigrants, or emigrants, depending on their direction of movement. This study is concerned only with inward movement to Edmonton which is the sole place of destination for all migrants; hence, the concern is with in-migrants and immigrants. A further subdivision of the in-migrant group was also made for the purposes of analysis, and is essentially a sub-division based on distance away from the place of destination:

- (1) Intraprovincial migrants. These are persons who were born

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27

Loc. cit.

28

Loc. cit.



in, and never migrated out of, the province of Alberta. Excluded from this group were those persons who were born in Edmonton and who never migrated out of the city. Such persons are not migrants since they have never been geographically mobile. The criterion for selection of intraprovincial migrants for the study was arrival in Edmonton at any time since the beginning of 1947.

(2) Interprovincial migrants. These are persons originating in all other provinces in Canada except Alberta, criterion for selection being arrival in Alberta at any time since the beginning of 1947.

The immigrant group has already been defined. Persons belonging to this group were selected on the basis of arrival in Canada at any time since the beginning of 1947.

The definition of migration given above satisfies the purposes of this study because, apart from being internationally acceptable, it is relatively unambiguous, and more importantly it places the phenomenon of migration in its geographical and spatial perspective while at the same time maintaining behavioural considerations evidenced by the concept of "mobility".

Place of destination has already been defined. City limits for Edmonton were taken to be those delimited in 1966 because of the convenience in conducting the field survey within a territory with distinct geographical and occupational limits, and also because of shortcomings in census data collection systems which made the 1966 city boundary the most recent censal unit for which supplementary data





were available. Place of origin for in-migrants is their province of birth and for immigrants their country of birth.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

In order to achieve the objectives stated in the opening section of this chapter, the study is organized in two main parts: (1) an historical review of the development and growth of the study area, and (2) the analysis of the characteristics and pattern of post-war migration to the study area.

Chapter II is concerned with the historical review of Edmonton, and is a necessary source of background information on the study area. Emphasis is placed on the growth of Edmonton's population and the focus is on the migrational component of that population growth.

Chapter III describes and analyses the socio-economic characteristics of the migrants, and compares those characteristics with the characteristics of the general population in Edmonton. Chapter IV analyses the motives for migration, while Chapter V deals with the migrants' plans for future residence in Alberta. Chapters III, IV, and V are discussed with reference to the major statements and theoretical hypotheses of migration previously described in this Chapter. The study ends with a summary of findings and some concluding remarks in Chapter VI.



## Chapter II

### THE STUDY AREA

#### LOCATION

Edmonton is situated at 54°N. Latitude and 113°W. Longitude at an elevation of 2,184 feet above sea level on the banks of the North Saskatchewan river which flows almost diagonally through it (Figure 2). The city is capital of the province of Alberta. It is approximately 60 miles south of the geographical centre of the province and lies quite near the northern limit of continuous human settlement. It is, in fact, the most northerly metropolitan area in Canada, being 250 miles farther north than Winnipeg, Manitoba. This location has made Edmonton a focal point for air, rail and road traffic from the North and has often caused it to be designated the "Gateway of the North." This, however, is not its only geographical advantage.

Edmonton has a rich agricultural and mineral hinterland, being situated in the Parkland belt which is characterized by fertile soils and more humidity than the southern and eastern parts of the province. It is this situation in the heart of the province's crescent of rich black soil that has resulted in the city's achieving importance as a service centre for this productive mixed farming area.

Another situational factor is that approximately 80% of Alberta's oil fields are located within 100 miles of Edmonton, making it an important Albertan and Canadian centre for the oil industry. In



Figure 2





addition, Edmonton has historically been a centre of strategic importance and, although this military advantage has widened, it is still relevant today.<sup>1</sup>

## PHYSICAL SETTING

### Geology, Soils, Climate

Throughout almost the entire Edmonton district, the bedrock has been sculptured into poorly consolidated materials called the Edmonton Formation. This formation was developed near the end of the Cretaceous period and consists chiefly of bentonitic shales with lenticular layers and coal zones. After the formation was deposited the Alberta Plains were subjected to a series of erosion cycles during Tertiary and early Pleistocene times, and the last of these cycles led to the formation of a preglacial North Saskatchewan river which flowed north into a valley up to 200 feet deep and a few miles wide.<sup>2</sup> At this time the Saskatchewan Sands and Gravels were deposited.

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For example, See J.G. MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, 1st edition. Hurtig, Edmonton, 1967; and W.C. Wonders, "Edmonton, Alberta: Some Current Aspects of its Urban Geography." The Canadian Geographer, No.9, 1957, pp.7-20.

2

L.A. Bayrock and T.E. Berg, Geology of the City of Edmonton: Part 1: Central Edmonton, Report 66-1. Research Council of Alberta, Edmonton, 1966, p.11.





During classical Wisconsin times, however, the Edmonton district was glaciated by the continental ice sheet which reached a thickness of over 5,000 feet in the Edmonton area. Following deglaciation about 10,000 years ago, the existing drainage systems were reversed resulting in new spillways, valleys, and lakes. One such lake was Glacial Lake Edmonton which covered the city of Edmonton area with 50 to 100 feet of water.<sup>3</sup> This lake drained southeast near the present Edmonton International Airport, and with the opening up of lower lake outlets to the east the lake finally drained away. The result has been a relatively flat relief in the Edmonton area.

Following the disappearance of Lake Edmonton, the post-glacial North Saskatchewan river emerged. At first it flowed as a braided stream over the west of the city, later one of the channels was incised to become the present North Saskatchewan river. The present surface of Edmonton has been subjected to only minor modification since Lake Edmonton was drained. The sandstone, shales, and coal of the area have all been of economic significance in the development of the city, and the bentonitic clays are now used mainly to control the viscosity of oil well drilling mud.

The normal soil profile of the Edmonton area has a black to dark brown surface averaging about 12 to 14 inches in depth.

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3

Loc. cit.



Immediately below this is a more compact horizon which is brown to dark brown, and the lime layer is usually found at 30 inches below the surface. Soils in this area are among the most fertile in the province.

The climate of the Edmonton area is humid continental, based on Koppen's classification. Temperature ranges from highs of 89°F. in summer to minus 35°F. in winter. Approximately 13 inches of the average precipitation of 18.25 inches is in the form of rain, the average annual snowfall is 53 inches, and the average wind velocity is 9.8.<sup>4</sup>

Summer is relatively dry and warm with an average relative humidity of 66.5%. This is normally sufficient for the successful growth of grain crops in the region. Precipitation conditions also are favourable from the farmer's point of view, since about 50% of it normally falls as rain during the April to July period which is the growing season. However, localized hailstorms during this period usually cause extensive damage to crops. Fall is mild and cool with severe frosts and this is followed by a long, cold, 5-month winter during which precipitation is almost entirely of snow.

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4

E.G. LeBreton, Groundwater Geology and Hydrology of East-Central Alberta, Bulletin 13. Research Council of Alberta, Edmonton, 1963, p.8.



## SETTLEMENT HISTORY

The Period 1778 - 1946

In 1778 Fort Edmonton was established by the North West Company. This was followed by a similar fort built by the Hudson's Bay Company, and on the union of the two companies in 1821 Fort Edmonton acquired more importance and became a centre for the north-west and also a settlement for company officials. Here, as elsewhere in Canada, the fur trade led to the development of the Dominion, and Fort Edmonton early became an important trading centre.

The North Saskatchewan river was used to provide protection from the warlike Plains Indians, and it also provided coal which later formed the nucleus of a small mining and blacksmithing industry. By 1886, six coal mines were in operation. The river also provided some gold and this attracted miners so that in 1874 the first detachment of North West Mounted Police came to Edmonton to establish order. As with many other trading posts, river transportation was vital and flat-bottomed steamers plied between the fort and Grand Rapids. In fact, Edmonton became a centre for the construction of York boats on the North Saskatchewan. Thus settlement slightly increased through the activities connected with gold, fur, and boat-building. By 1881, the North West Mounted Police census gave the



first official count of the population as 263.<sup>5</sup>

In that year Edmonton experienced a land boom created by hopes that the Canadian Pacific Railway would pass through the settlement on its way through the Yellowhead Pass in accordance with original surveys. Within a few days only, over 400 Hudson's Bay Company lots were sold from their 3,000 acre reservation, yet the demand continued to grow.<sup>6</sup> But the railway passed through Calgary instead, on its way through Kicking Horse Pass, and the Edmonton settlers found themselves 200 miles away from the line. Despite this setback, however, the settlement continued to grow slowly aided by the increase in coal mining activities. By 1883, 35 to 40 houses straggled along a somewhat ramshackled Jasper Avenue, the main street, and it was in the midst of this slow development that the 1885 Louis Riel Rebellion blazed.<sup>7</sup> In 1892 the fort, with an area of less than three and a half square miles and a population of 700, achieved added status when it was incorporated as the Town of Edmonton.<sup>8</sup>

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5

J.G. MacGregor, Edmonton: A History. op. cit., p.313.

6

J.G. Suski, Edmonton: Short History and General Description of the Area. City of Edmonton, 1965, p.12.

7

W.G. Hardy (ed.), Alberta: A Natural History, 1st. edition. Hurtig, Edmonton, 1967, p.312.

8

J.G. MacGregor, op. cit., p.313.





From this time on Edmonton continued to develop in a remarkable fashion. In 1902, after the Low Level Bridge was constructed across the North Saskatchewan river, the first Canadian Pacific Railway line reached Edmonton, and this was soon followed by the Canadian National Railway in 1905. The impact of the railway was considerable. It heralded a major economic boom period, as real estate activity flourished on the basis of Edmonton's regional centrality as a service centre. The railway also spelled the end of commercial river traffic. In 1904 Edmonton achieved city status, and when Alberta became a province in 1905 Edmonton became its capital city.

Moreover, Edmonton's rich agricultural hinterland also experienced a boom with the discovery of Marquis wheat and new types of ploughs, and this aided the increased development of the city. Sifton's immigration policy also worked effectively to bring immigrants from Europe in ever increasing numbers to increase the production of grain. Edmonton was forced to become the main centre for immigrants in Alberta, and settlement, hitherto concentrated around the immediate vicinity of the railway yards, now began to fan out. Plants were constructed away from the built-up areas and the whole land use pattern of the city changed. Factories sprang up on outward extensions of the Canadian National Railway, particularly to the east and north which became the site of the city's stockyard. In the nine years between 1903 and 1912, the city's population increased by 770%, and the assessed value of buildings also increased



by more than 3,800%.<sup>9</sup> Agricultural processing and manufacturing were the chief industries at this time, and these developments continued and were only slowed down by the depression of the 1930s and by the second World War. At the end of the period, in 1946, the population of the city stood at 113,116, representing an increase of 112,853 over the first official estimate of 263 in 1881.<sup>10</sup> The city's areal dimensions also increased, from three and a half square miles to over forty square miles, during the same period.

#### The Period 1947 - 1971

Over the past twenty-five years Edmonton's development has been due in large measure to the discovery of oil on February 13, 1947 at Leduc, 15 miles southwest of the city. This discovery engendered such a favourable economic climate that it gave rise to a population and industrial boom, the effects of which are still being felt today.

During 1947 alone, Edmonton's population increased by 6,000 to 118,541, and annual growth has been of that magnitude ever since. The population now stands at 435,503.<sup>11</sup>

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9

T.R. Lee, A Manufacturing Geography of Edmonton. Unpub. M.A. Thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1963, p.22.

10

City of Edmonton, Office of the Assessor and Tax Collector, Civic Census and Voters' List Enumeration. Edmonton, 1971.

11

Loc. cit.



The city's limits have also kept up with the pace of population increase, as Figure 3 shows. From an area of 41.16 square miles in February 1947 when the first Leduc oil well was located, various annexations had increased it to 44.07 square miles by 1956, and from that point to the end of 1970 the city's area increased almost three-fold to its present 118 square miles.<sup>12</sup> The largest single annexation was the 16.92 square miles added in 1964 when the town of Jasper Place and the southwest areas were amalgamated.

The city's density, too, has tended to increase over the years despite increasing areal dimensions. At the end of 1947, for example, the density was 2,856 persons per square mile; by 1961, the density had reached its peak of 4,868 persons per square mile after the amalgamation of the town of Beverly and the northeastern areas. At present, the density is 3,913 persons per square mile, but this figure had been surpassed in every year since 1960.

Nearly all this growth in area and population is attributable to oil. It has been estimated, for example, that without oil Edmonton's population would have been only one-half of its actual size.<sup>13</sup> So rapid was the development of the oil industry that each new month after the first oil well was located new discoveries continued to be made, such that only five years later there were as many as 3,000 producing

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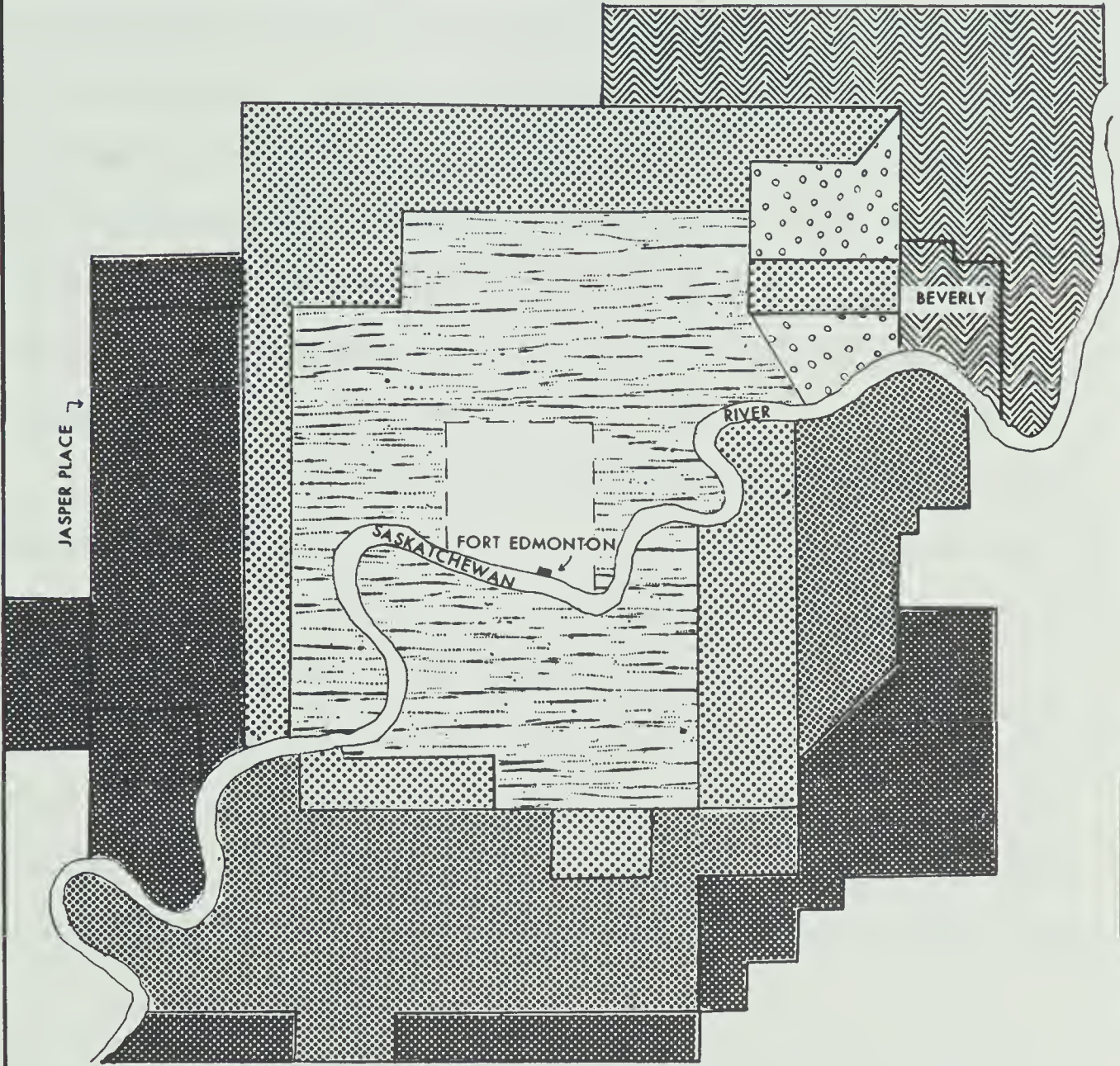
<sup>12</sup>Loc. cit.<sup>13</sup>J.G. MacGregor, op. cit., p.295.



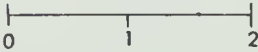


Figure 3

# AREAL GROWTH OF EDMONTON



SCALE IN MILES



- |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| EDMONTON INCORPORATED 1892 | ANNEXED 1947-1960 |
| ANNEXED 1904-1910          | ANNEXED 1961      |
| ANNEXED 1912               | ANNEXED 1964-1970 |
| ANNEXED 1913-1914          |                   |

Source: Edmonton, Civic Census





wells within a 50-mile radius of the city.<sup>14</sup> Each new year during the decade ending 1966 also brought new discoveries of oil, and during the same period the industry poured over four and a half billion dollars into exploration, drilling and producing activities and into land costs and royalties in Alberta, Edmonton receiving the major share of the expenditure.<sup>15</sup> By the end of that period also, the province had already collected some two billion dollars from the sale of crown oil reserves, rentals, and royalties.<sup>16</sup> This influx of oil money increased construction, manufacturing trade and services, and also caused many thousands of people to be attracted to the city.

During this period of its settlement history Edmonton also benefitted from its attraction as University centre, an attraction that can be gauged from the proportion of provincial expenditure poured into the University of Alberta. For example, on March 31, 1957, the province had nearly 15 million dollars invested in buildings and equipment at the three branches of the University at Edmonton, Calgary and Banff. By 1960, that figure had risen to 30 million dollars of which some 28 million dollars had been expended on the Edmonton campus alone.

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14

J.G. MacGregor, op. cit., p.295.

15

Ibid., p.296.

16

Loc. cit.



Five years later, by March 31, 1965, the capital expenditure on the Edmonton campus had jumped to over 62 million dollars.<sup>17</sup>

In keeping with this increase in capital investment, the university also increased its full time staff, from 240 in 1956 to 850 by 1966. Enrollment rose accordingly, from some 4,600 in 1955, which included 1,600 summer students, to 18,345 full-time day students by 1966, representing an increase of over 500% during that decade.<sup>18</sup> Since then, enrollment seems to have levelled off and by the end of registration week in September, 1971, full-time student enrollment stood at 18,058.<sup>19</sup>

Sukdeo<sup>20</sup> has shown that enrollment in Alberta universities is predominantly from within the province itself, and that on the average only 10% of the student body can be accounted for by other Canadian and foreign students. This means that Edmonton's attraction as a University centre may be described as a function of the population growth of the province and may therefore be illustrated by the increasing density of the city, its hinterland, and of the province

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17

Ibid., p.305.

18

F. Sukdeo, The Brain Drain and Students in Alberta Universities, Report No.9, Human Resources Research Council Alberta Migration Project. Alberta H.R.R.C., Edmonton, 1971, p.12.

19

The Edmonton Journal, September 14, 1971.

20

F. Sukdeo, op. cit., pp.14-19.



as a whole. Figure 4 shows Edmonton's potential as a focal point of population concentration in Alberta. Out of a total provincial population of 1,464,203 in 1966, 505,000 or 34% resided within a 50-mile radius of the centre of Edmonton; and 689,000 or 47% resided within a 100-mile radius.<sup>21</sup> Indications are that the city will continue to maintain its potential for population concentration.

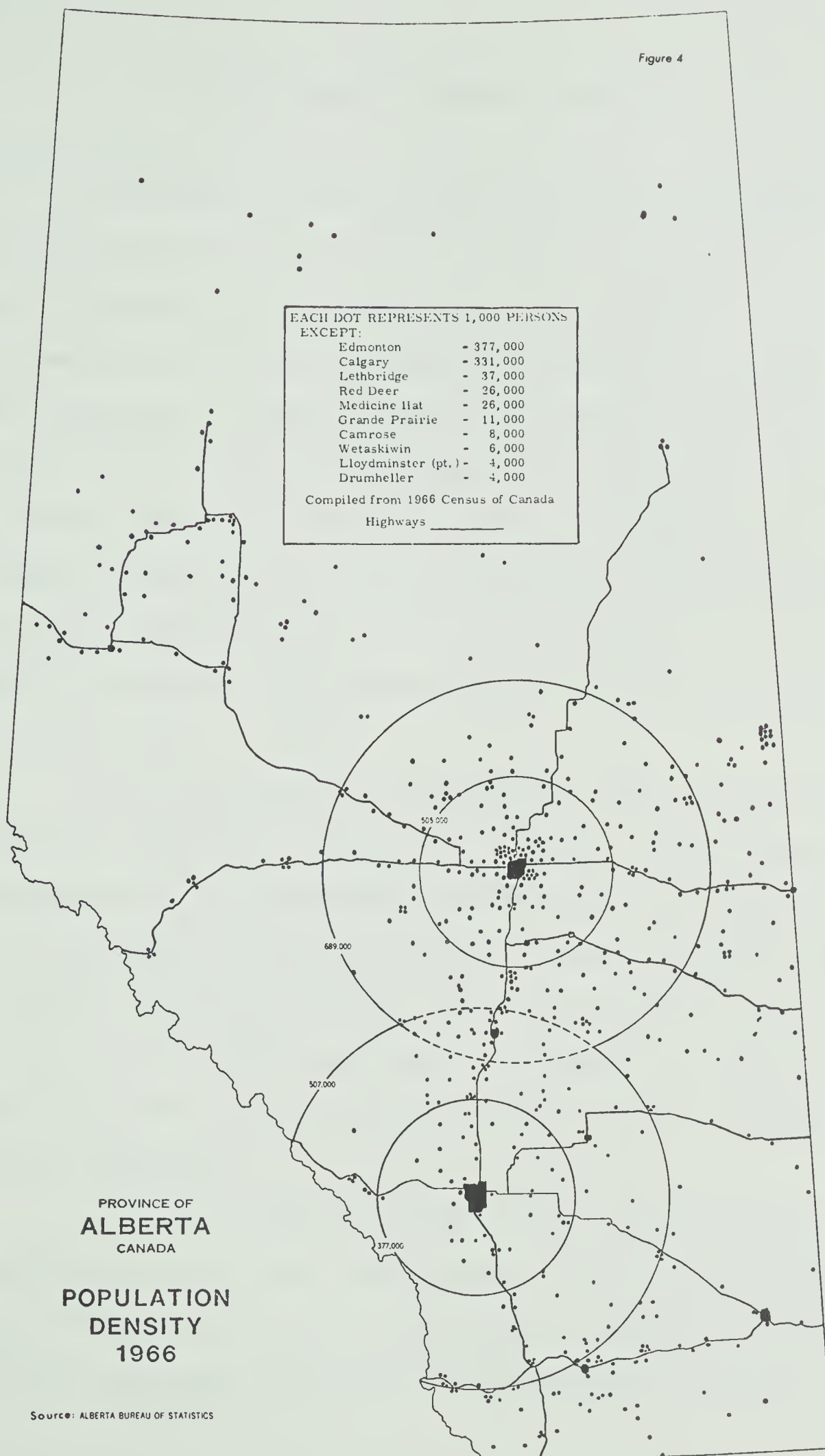
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21

Government of the Province of Alberta, Bureau of Statistics, miscellaneous publications, 1971.



Figure 4







## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF POST-WAR MIGRATION

The preceding section pointed to the recency of Edmonton's settlement history and to the remarkable growth of its population during the post-World War II period. Figure 5 summarizes the city's population growth trend for significant years during its settlement history and presents a graphic picture of the relative importance of the 1947 - 1971 period to the development of the population. Much of this recent growth has, of course, been due to a rising birth rate consequent upon the return to relatively prosperous economic conditions after the war, but much was also due to an influx of persons from the surrounding countryside, from other provinces in Canada and from other parts of the world.

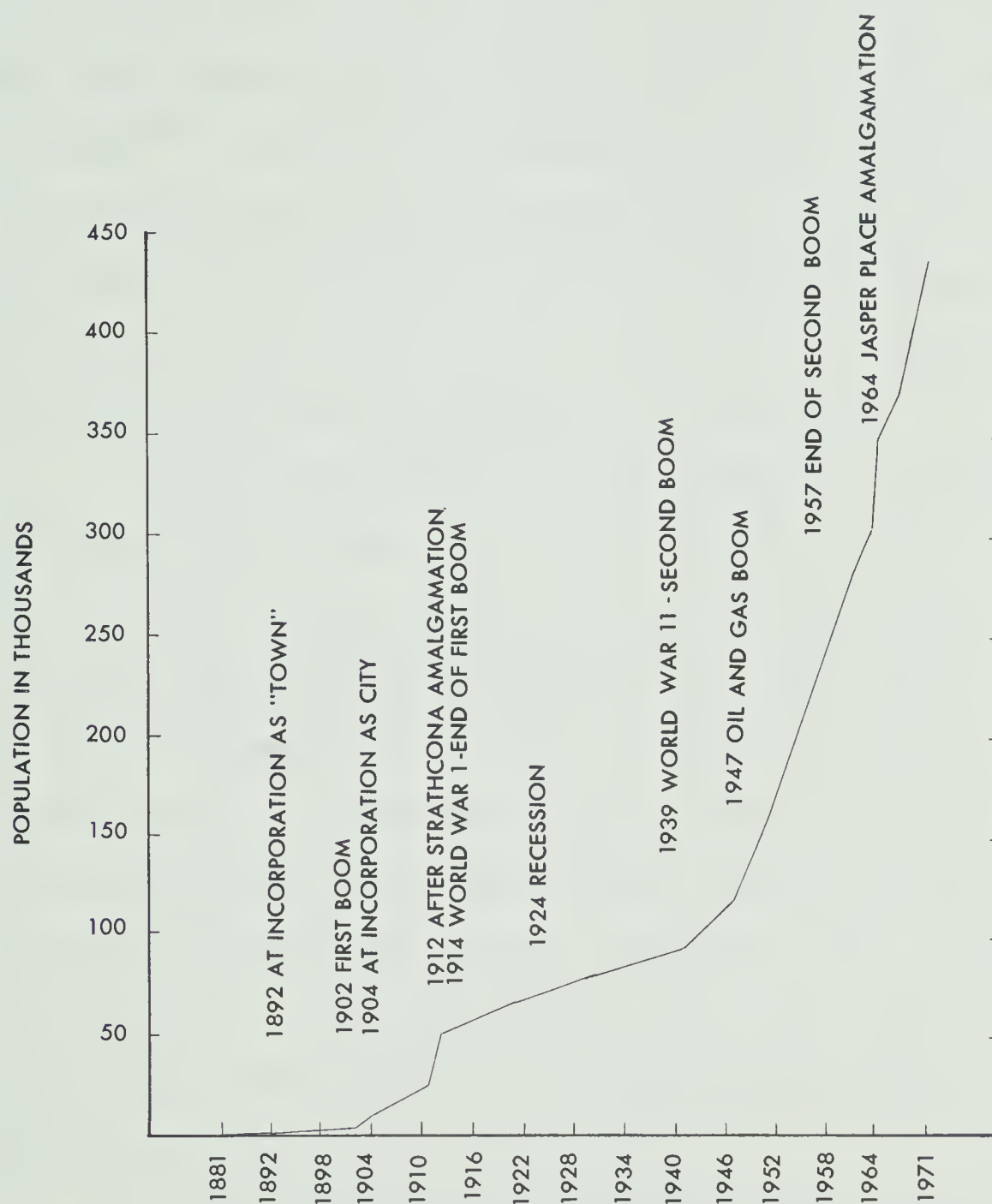
This section briefly investigates the role which that influx played in the development of the city's population. It also serves as an introduction to the subsequent detailed analysis of the characteristics of the migrants. Population trends for Edmonton cannot be studied in isolation, however, but are best appreciated when they are related to similar trends in Alberta and Canada. Consequently, throughout this section the approach to the discussion will be in terms of a comparative historical perspective.

In general, Canada's population can be said to have been characterized by rapid growth characteristics. Throughout the present century the country has received large numbers of immigrants and has also seen large numbers of its native- and foreign-born residents



Figure 5

# POPULATION GROWTH OF EDMONTON 1881-1971



Sources: Edmonton, Civic Census  
D.B.S., Census of Canada

M.S.K.



leave as emigrants, especially to the United States. The country has also experienced a high level of internal migration in response to the push and pull of changing economic conditions.<sup>22</sup> Because net immigration has always been a highly variable component of the nation's population growth, natural increase has constituted the dominant source of growth.<sup>23</sup> In Alberta, on the other hand, growth trends have been quite distinct, and net migration has played a greater role in the development of the province's population. Edmonton has tended to develop along similar lines as well, since the city's growth is largely a function of the overall development of the province.

The general pattern of growth for Edmonton, Alberta and Canada during this century is presented in Table 1. As is revealed there, the first pronounced numerical increase in population for both Canada and Edmonton occurred during the 1941 - 1951 decade. The increase for Canada was almost twice as large as in any of the preceding decades. In the following decade, 1951 - 1961, both Canada and Alberta experienced their largest numerical increase for the entire century, and Edmonton also recorded a phenomenal growth. Edmonton's growth continued to accelerate, however, and in the most recent period, 1961 - 1969, the increase in population was higher than for

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22

For good discussions of this fact, See L. Stone, Migration in Canada: Some Regional Aspects, D.B.S. 1961 Census Monograph. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1969; and J. Porter, Canadian Social Structure: A Statistical Profile, The Carleton Library No.32. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 1967.

23

For example, natural population increase in the 1851-1951 period totalled 10,500,000 compared with gross immigration of about 7,200,000 and net immigration of a little over 700,000. The latter constituted a mere 6 or 7% of the total population increase during that century (Canada, D.B.S., Canada One Hundred. Queen's Printer, 1967, 271.)



TABLE 1 - POPULATION AND POPULATION CHANGE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA AND CANADA, 1901 - 1969

Census Year	EDMONTON			ALBERTA			CANADA		
	Population	Number	Change %	Population	Number	Change %	Population	Number	Change %
1901	2,626	---	---	73,022	---	---	5,371,315	---	---
1911	24,900	22,274	848.2	374,295	301,273	412.6	7,206,643	1,835,328	34.2
1921	58,821	33,921	136.2	588,454	214,159	57.2	8,787,949	1,581,306	21.9
1931	79,197	20,376	34.6	731,605	143,151	24.3	10,376,786	1,588,837	18.1
1941	93,817	14,610	18.5	796,169	64,564	8.8	11,506,655	1,129,869	10.9
1951	159,631	65,814	70.2	939,501	143,332	18.0	14,009,429	2,502,774	21.8
1961	281,027	121,396	76.0	1,331,944	392,443	41.8	18,238,247	4,228,818	30.2
1966	376,925	95,898	34.1	1,463,203	131,259	9.8	20,014,880	1,776,633	9.7
1969*	410,105	129,078**	45.9**1,561,000	229,056**	229,056**	17.2**	21,061,000	2,752,753**	15.1**

Sources: D.B.S., Census of Canada, 1961, Bulletin 1.1-10. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1963, Table 6; D.B.S., Estimated Population of Canada by Province at June 1, 1969. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1969.

\*

Estimated Population at June 1, 1969.

\*\*

Numerical and Percentage changes are for the period 1961 - 1969.





any ten year period during this century. On the other hand, the increases recorded for Alberta and Canada seem to have levelled off.

A substantial part of the Canadian increase during the 1941 - 1951 decade took place between 1946 and 1951 following the end of the second World War when close to 464,000 immigrants entered the country.<sup>24</sup> An appreciable number of these immigrants were "displaced" persons from East European countries. Natural increase was also heavy during 1946 - 1951, however, and this was due to the sharp increase in marriages in the years following the war, such that close to 1,200,000 or 61 percent of the 1,972,000 natural increase of the decade took place during those five years.<sup>25</sup> In the following decade, Canada's population increased by 4,228,818, almost double the growth in the preceding decade. This phenomenal increase was due mainly to high birth rates and a level of immigration comparable to the early years of the twentieth century when, due to the opening up of the Prairie provinces to agricultural settlement, a record rate of population growth of 34 percent was achieved. Natural increase accounted for 75 percent of the total population growth between 1951 and 1961, and net immigration for the remaining 25 percent.<sup>26</sup> According to the

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24

Canada, D.B.S., Census of Canada, Bulletin 7.1-1, General Review: Native and Foreign-Born Population. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1965, p.4.

25

Loc. cit.

26

Ibid., p.5.



Department of Citizenship and Immigration, 1,542,853 immigrants entered Canada during 1951 - 1961.

This was also the decade in which Alberta recorded a growth rate of 41.8 percent, its highest since 1921 (Table 1). During 1941 - 1946 the provincial population had increased by less than 1 percent; after 1946, the province achieved a growth rate of more than 3 percent per annum, a rate faster than the national growth rate; and with the boom in economic development brought on by oil, the province's population leaped ahead, from 803,000 in 1946 just prior to the discovery of oil, to 1,123,000 ten years later, representing an increase of 40 percent. The 41.8 percent increase which the province achieved in the 1951 - 1961 decade placed it foremost among the provinces in Canada as a centre for population growth. Of the decade increase, one-quarter was attributable to net migration and the rest to natural increase. During the period, too, 8.2 percent or 96,233 of the total Canadian immigrant population settled in Alberta, accounting for 33.3 percent of the total provincial foreign-born population in 1961.<sup>27</sup> The net movement of native-born Canadians amounted to 277,000 during the decade, and this was the first time since 1921 that the net flow of this migrant stream was positive.

But although Alberta recorded its fastest rate of growth in this decade, actually only two out of its fifteen census divisions

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<sup>27</sup>

J. Porter, Canadian Social Structure, op. cit., Tables C2 and C3.



experienced growth rates in excess of the provincial figure. These were the census divisions that included the two metropolitan areas of Calgary and Edmonton. These two areas recorded phenomenal increases of 79.2 percent and 74.4 percent, respectively.<sup>28</sup> This implies that a substantial part of the growth in population in Alberta was concentrated in the province's two metropolitan areas, and for Edmonton it meant that population growth due to net migration during the decade was roughly 38 percent of its 1951 population.<sup>29</sup> The data also reveal that the only other divisions experiencing fairly rapid growth over the period were those containing other major cities such as Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Lethbridge, and Grande Prairie; whereas, the divisions with marked population losses were the two rural divisions adjacent to Edmonton and one adjacent to Calgary.

Like Alberta, then, the stream of migrants to Edmonton was made up of immigrants and in-migrants. Roughly 37 percent of Alberta's new immigrants settled in Edmonton alone during the period. But the 1950s was the period that also witnessed a drastic shift away from rural areas to the cities. Thus, for example, the rural population of Alberta amounted to 61.9 percent in 1931 and was still 61.5 percent in 1941, but by 1951 it had declined to 48 percent, and stood at 32.8 percent in 1961. The urban population increased accordingly, from 38.1

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28

Canada, D.B.S., Census of Canada, op. cit., p.17.

29

Ibid.



percent to 75 percent, over the same period. To the cities, then, came hundreds of rural workers and their families to labour in the various newly-founded industries and occupations. Edmonton took the major share of that population movement in Alberta. Moreover, gains were made not only from the Albertan countryside, but also from other provinces, especially from Saskatchewan which lost a significant number of its residents during the Fifties.<sup>30</sup> By 1956, the tremendous influx of persons into Edmonton had swelled the city's population to 226,002, representing an increase of 100 percent in ten years. During this time, Edmonton claimed, with Calgary, the honour of being Canada's fastest growing area. In 1961, the city's population reached 281,027, and of this figure some 37,500 were immigrants who had come to live in the city since the start of the economic boom in 1947.

Recently, population gains due to migration have tended to level off and now are on par with the gains attributed to natural increase.<sup>31</sup> Nevertheless, migration to Edmonton in the post-war period has made, and probably will continue to make, a considerable contribution to the growth of the city's population.

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30

Ibid.

31

W.W. McVey, jr., Edmonton and Calgary: A Demographic Profile, Chapters 2 and 3: Edmonton Profiles. Population Research Laboratory, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1971, pp.75-354.





## Chapter III

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POST-WAR MIGRANTS

#### INTRODUCTION

Migration theory identifies certain groups of persons as having a tendency to be more migratory than others. This implies that migration is a selective process and migrants not just a random sample of the population at the place of origin, but a rather select group of persons with identifiable similarities in characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, education, and occupation.<sup>1</sup>

Researchers have repeatedly tried to establish "universal" migration differentials which would apply to all places and at all times but, although it seems impossible for migration not to be selective, so far they have only been able to establish a definite pattern for the age differential. The general finding is that young adults in the 20-34 age group are more prone to migrate than other persons. Exceptions to this general finding do exist, however. For example, whenever migration occurs as a result of the desire to live in an area of better climate, it is usually selective of retired persons and the elderly.

This chapter investigates some of the major differentials which are thought to affect migration selectivity, in respect of post-

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1

E.S. Lee, "A Theory of Migration," op.cit., p.56.



war migrants to Edmonton. At the same time it provides an answer to the basic question: Who are the migrants? Consequently, it shows some of the important ways in which post-war migrants form a distinctive segment of the local population. The differentials analysed are place of origin, sex, marital status, age, period of residence, family size, religion, education, and occupation.

## MIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS

### Country and Province of Origin

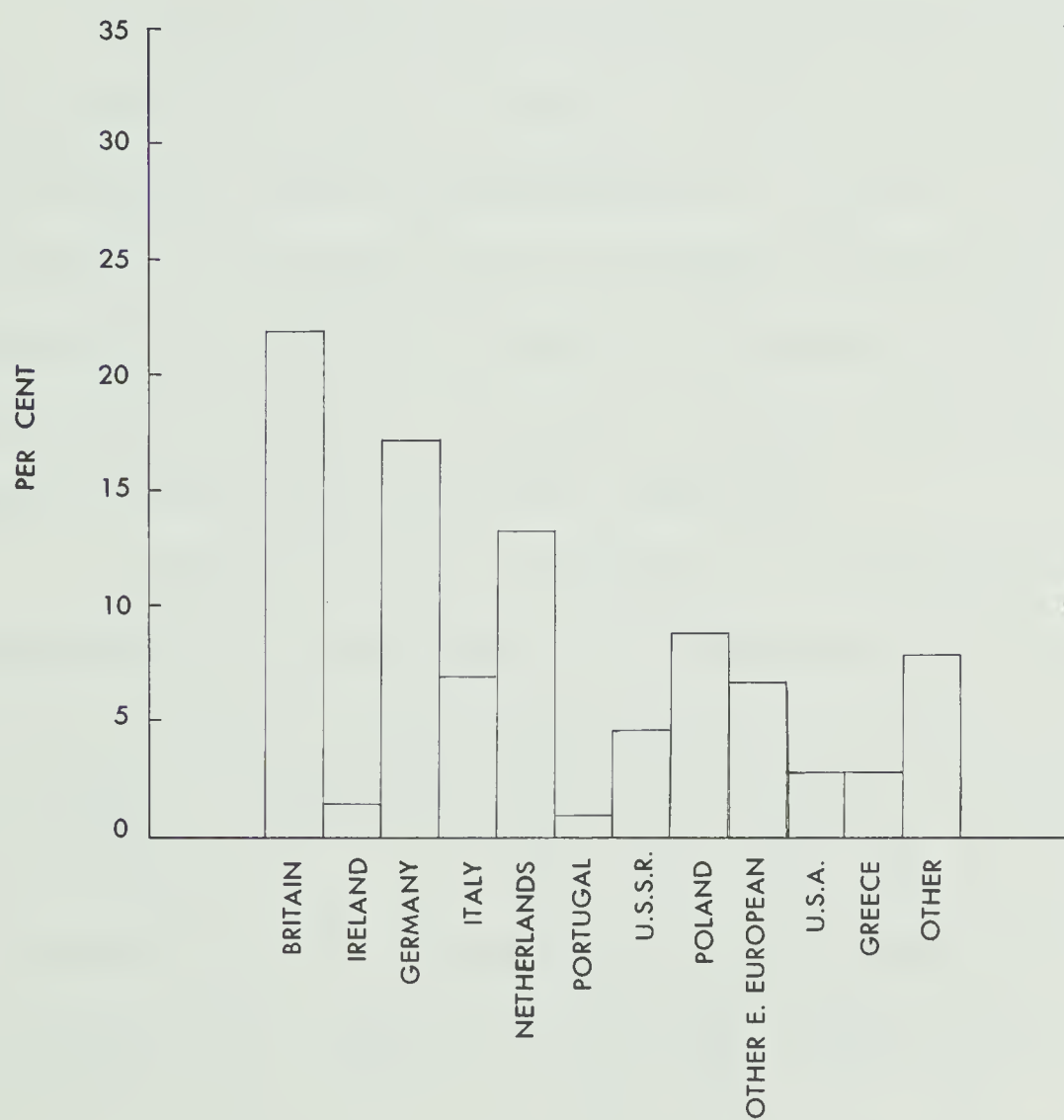
Figure 6 shows the distribution, by country of birth, of post-war immigrants to Edmonton. It should be pointed out that some of the immigrants might have entered Canada after a period of residence in a country other than that of their birth. Nevertheless, the country of birth gives as reliable a guide to the place of origin of the immigrants as was possible within the scope of this research.

The illustration reveals that the largest single group of immigrants originated in Britain, that country accounting for 21.9 percent of the total immigrant movement to Edmonton in the post-war period. The second largest group accounted for 17.2 percent of the immigrant movement and originated in Germany. They were followed by the Netherlands group, 13.3 percent; Poland, 8.9 percent; and Italy,



Figure 6

## IMMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



7 percent. The sixth largest group consisted of other East European immigrants, from those eastern European communist countries excluding Poland, the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine. Relatively small percentage representations were obtained for U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine, the United States, Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. Finally, the "Other" category comprised all other immigrants, not elsewhere specified, in addition to a small proportion, or 2.2 percent, who did not state their place of birth.

The distribution of post-war interprovincial migrants by province of birth is given in Figure 7. By far, the largest proportion of these migrants came from Saskatchewan, 46.7 percent of them being so represented. This compares with 20.2 percent originating in Manitoba, 9.4 percent in the Maritime Provinces, 9.1 percent in Ontario, 8.1 percent in British Columbia, 4.9 percent in Quebec, and the remaining 1.5 percent in Yukon and the North West Territories.

The distribution of immigrants is a reflection of Canadian immigration policy which, prior to the change that took place in 1967, actively encouraged European immigration, had always given special encouragement to immigration from Britain and which, at various times during the post-war era, also opened the nation's doors to refugees from eastern Europe.<sup>2</sup> Although Britain figured largely in the immigrant movement, its importance has narrowed in recent years, and

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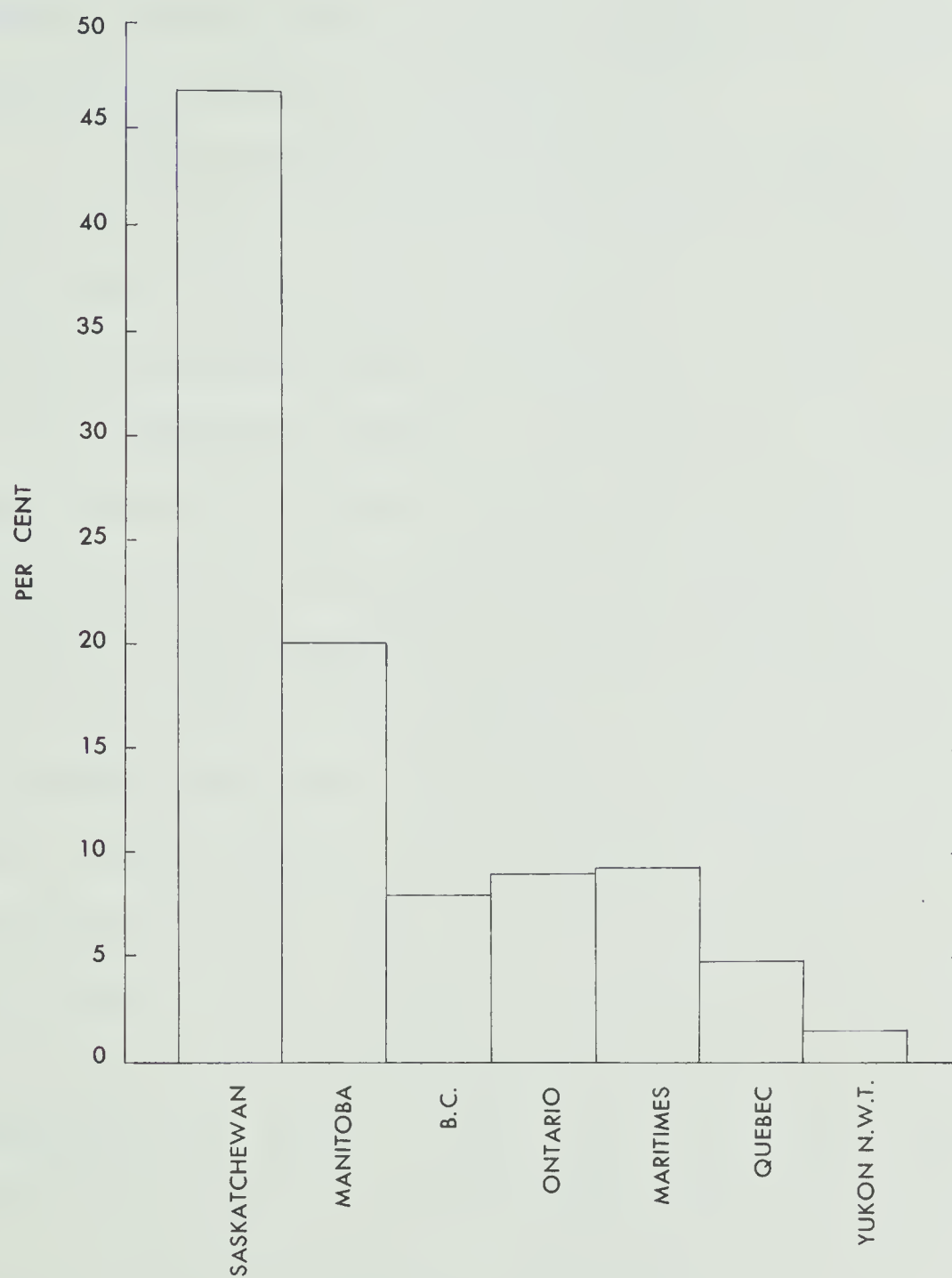
These facts are discussed by a variety of authors, including A.H. Richmond, Post-War Immigrants in Canada. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1967.





Figure 7

## INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS BY PROVINCE OF ORIGIN



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



Germany and the Netherlands, in north-west Europe, and Italy, in southern Europe, have become the principal sources of immigrants. The distribution of immigrants in Canada as a whole also reflects these changes in the post-war period. Thus, post-war immigration to Edmonton does not substantiate one of the general findings in international migration research which states that immigrants tend to move from underdeveloped countries to developed ones.<sup>3</sup>

The distribution of interprovincial migrants, on the other hand, lends support to a general finding in internal migration research which states that the volume of in-migrants tends to decrease with distance away from the place of destination, as well as with the rise in cost or difficulty incurred in making the move. Accordingly, migrants from the contiguous province of Saskatchewan are found to predominate within the interprovincial group and are followed, in descending order of magnitude, by migrants from Manitoba, Ontario, and Yukon and the North West Territories. There is a noticeable drop in the expected proportional representation of migrants from Alberta's other contiguous province, British Columbia. This might be explained by a number of factors such as the cost and difficulty, whether psychological or real, incurred in crossing the mountain barrier between the two provinces; the similarity in standard of living, thus making Alberta not as attractive a place for British Columbia migrants as some "richer" place might be; and the harsher Alberta climate which might

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See, hypothesis (3), p.15 of this report. Also, United Nations, The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends, op. cit.



discourage the movement of migrants from the relatively mild areas of British Columbia. There is also a noticeable drop in the expected representation of migrants from Quebec. A ready explanation might perhaps be found in the presence of the French-English cultural barrier to migration. Finally, the higher-than-expected proportional representation of migrants from the distant Maritimes might be explained in the fact that movers from those provinces were grouped together during the data coding process. If it were possible to dis-aggregate the data for each province it might well be found that the distribution of migrants follows the expected trend. An alternative explanation is also suggested by the push and pull factors of migration. The Maritimes constitute a relatively economically depressed area in Canada, and migrants from that region would be expected to be highly attracted to the more affluent Alberta. In general, however, part of the inter-provincial movement can also be explained in the migration of rural persons to the city of Edmonton, judging from the preponderance of migrants from Saskatchewan and bearing in mind the role which such persons have been found to play in the growth of the city in recent decades.

### Sex Composition

A distinct pattern of sex selectivity is shown for post-war migrants in Edmonton. Males tend to predominate over females among



both international and internal migrant groups. Of the immigrant population, 82.8 percent were male, as compared to 79.5 percent of the interprovincial migrants, and 90.2 percent of the intraprovincial migrants. For the migrant population as a whole, 85.9 percent were male and only 14.1 percent female.

The preponderance of males is explained in part by the fact that wives and other dependents were excluded from the analysis, and in part by the fact that respondents in the field survey were heads of households. There generally is a preference for the male to be regarded as the head of the household. Even if this were not so, however, the finding on sex selectivity among migrants reported here is in keeping with past research findings for other places and at other times. This is more so in the case of immigrants than in-migrants, since sex selectivity in respect of internal migrants tends to vary in time and place and little support is generally found for a law of differential sex migration.<sup>4</sup>

### Marital Status

Table 2 shows the marital status of immigrants and interprovincial migrants prior to migration to Edmonton. Almost 47 percent

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The literature on this topic is enormous, but a good starting point for discussion may be found in C.J. Jansen (ed.), Readings in the Sociology of Migration. Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1970, pp.3-35; and in United Nations, The Determinants . . . op. cit., Chp.16.





of the immigrants were single prior to migration, as compared to 70 percent of the interprovincial migrants. On the other hand, 50 percent of the immigrants, and 29 percent of the interprovincial migrants, were married. In-migrants therefore tended to be predominantly single at time of migration, whereas there were almost as many single immigrants as there were married ones within the immigrant group at time of migration to Edmonton.

TABLE 2 - MARITAL STATUS OF MIGRANTS PRIOR TO MIGRATION

Marital Status	Immigrants %	Interprovincial Migrants %
Single	46.9	70.1
Married*	50.2	28.1
Divorced	0.5	1.4
Widowed	2.4	----
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

\* Includes "Separated".

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

By the time the survey was undertaken, this major difference between the international and internal migrant groups had virtually vanished. The data on present marital status reveal that by far the greatest majority of migrants are married. Only 9 percent of the immigrants were still single at the time of the survey; 84.8 percent were married; 3.8 percent were divorced; and 2.4 percent were widowed.



By comparison, 20.5 percent of the interprovincial migrant group were still single at the time of the survey; 68.1 percent were married; 7.2 percent were divorced; and 4.2 percent were widowed. For the intraprovincial group, the data revealed that 13.9 percent were single; 75.5 percent married; 3.5 percent divorced; and 7.2 percent widowed.

When the overall migrant group was compared to the general population in Edmonton, it was found that the migrants showed a greater tendency to be married. For example, 67.2 percent of the general population are married,<sup>5</sup> as compared to 75.7 percent of the overall migrant group. Moreover, if the married, divorced, and widowed are combined to represent all those persons who were ever married, it is found that migrants distinctly predominate among the ever-married category. Only 15 percent of the migrants are single at present, as compared to 26 percent of the general Edmonton population.

### Age Distribution

The age distribution of post-war migrants at the time they entered Edmonton is shown in Figure 8. In general, it can be said that the largest numbers of the migrants were concentrated in the ages of young adulthood, as almost 64 percent of the immigrants were between 20 and 34 years of age, as compared to 55.5 percent of the interprovincial migrants and 32.3 percent of the intraprovincial migrants.

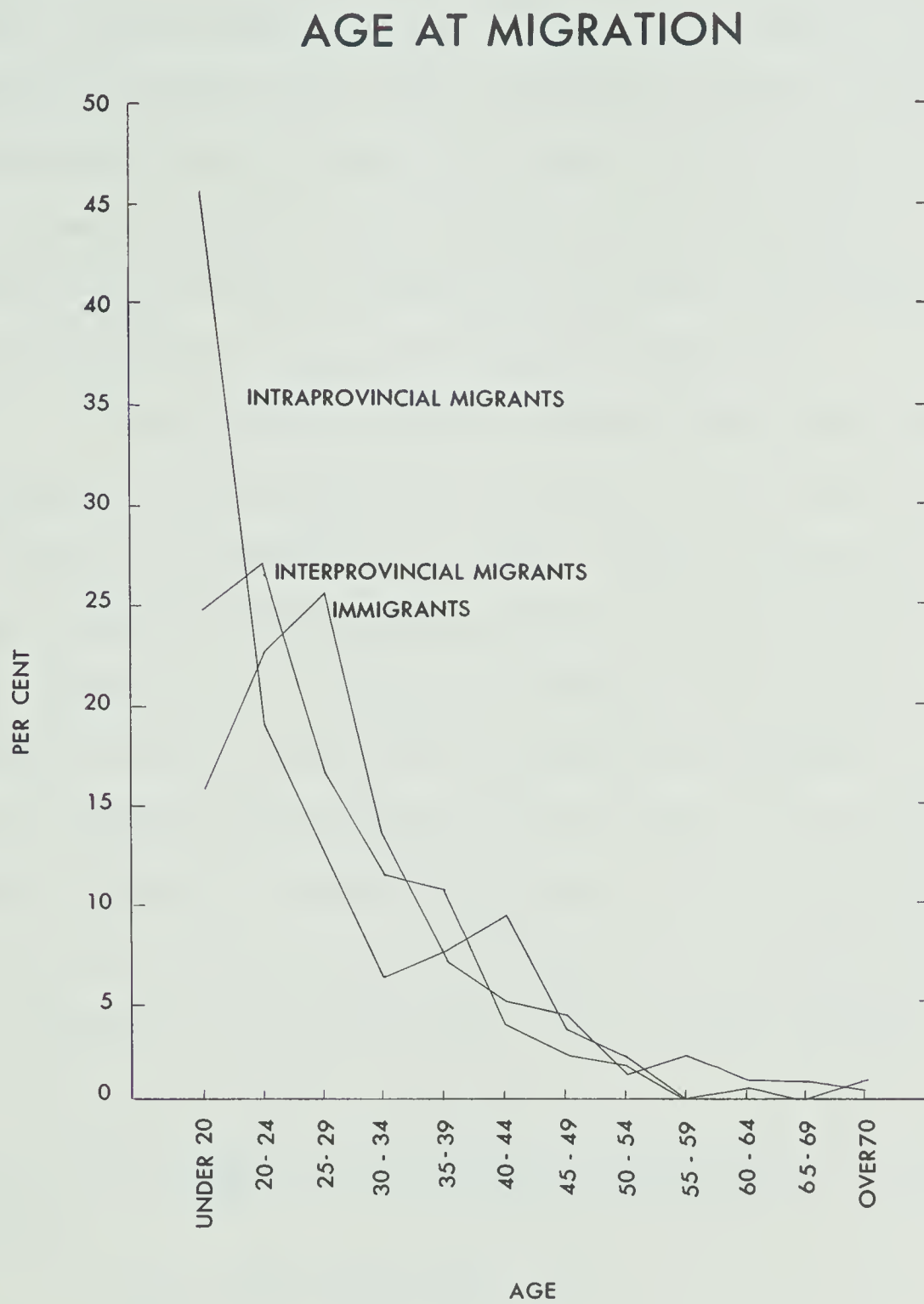
These figures compare favourably with research findings in

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<sup>5</sup>Figures quoted for Edmonton are for 1966.



Figure 8



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

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other studies. For example, in a survey of migrants conducted in Paris<sup>6</sup> the researcher found that 44 percent of migrants were aged 20-34 years; Jansen<sup>7</sup> reported that in a study of inter-state migration in the U.S. covering the period 1870 - 1950, net gains in migrants were highly concentrated in the age range 20-34 years for both sexes during the whole period; and in a study of labour migration from Wales to Oxford between 1928 and 1937, 64 percent of the migrants were found to be in the age group 20-34 years at the time of migration.<sup>8</sup>

An outstanding feature of the age distribution among migrants in Edmonton is the preponderance of persons in the under-20 years category within the intraprovincial group. Roughly 46 percent of this group consisted of these persons, whereas immigrants and interprovincial migrants were not similarly distributed. The modal age for immigrants was 25-29 years; for interprovincial migrants, 20-24 years; and for intraprovincial migrants, under-20 years. Past research has commonly found the 25-29 years age group to be the typical male mode among migrants,<sup>9</sup> and this is substantiated in the present research for immigrants. On the other hand, the 20-24 years age group is

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G. Pourcher, "The Growing Population of Paris," in C.J. Jansen (ed.), Readings in the Sociology of Migration. op. cit., pp. 179-202.

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C.J. Jansen, loc. cit., p.14.

8

Ibid.

9

For examples, see M.V. George, Internal Migration in Canada, D.B.S. 1961 Census Monograph. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1970, p.153; G. Lamont, Migrants and Migration in Part of the South Peace River Region, Alberta. Unpub. M.A. Thesis, Univ. of Alberta, 1970, p.37; L. Stone, Migration in Canada, D.B.S. 1961 Census Monograph. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1969, p.74; and United Nations, The Determinants and Consequences . . . op. cit., Chapter 16.





generally identified as the typical female mode. It was rather surprising to find this mode for interprovincial migrants and an even younger mode for intraprovincial migrants, for research on internal migration generally points to the similarity between internal migrants and international migrants in the case of age selectivity.<sup>10</sup>

Some other important differences are revealed in the graph. Immigrants tend to be somewhat older than other migrants at the time they entered Edmonton. For example, immigrants are over-represented in the 25-29, 30-34, 45-49, 55-59, 60-64, and 65-69 age groups; but they are under-represented in the under-20, 20-24, 35-39, and 50-54 age groups. On the other hand, intraprovincial migrants showed a tendency to be younger than other migrants. Apart from their dominance in the under-20 age group, they were also over-represented in the 40-44 and 50-54 age groups. Interprovincial migrants show an intermediate distribution, with over-representations in the 20-24, 35-39, and over-70 age groups.

The under-20 years age group is the one which most actively reflects dependency at time of migration. Only 15.8 percent of the immigrants, as compared to 24.7 percent of the intraprovincial migrants and 45.5 percent of the intraprovincial migrants were found in this category. Within-province movers therefore showed a greater tendency for this kind of movement. There was also a marked absence of

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United Nations, loc. cit.



elderly migrants. This is probably a reflection on the unattractiveness of the city as a place of retirement for those aged 65 and over. There were no intraprovincial migrants in this category, and only 1.4 percent of the interprovincial migrants and 4.4 percent of the immigrants. The relatively higher proportion noted for the immigrant group might be explained by the movement of elderly refugees following the end of the second World War or by the movement of elderly dependents within migrating units.

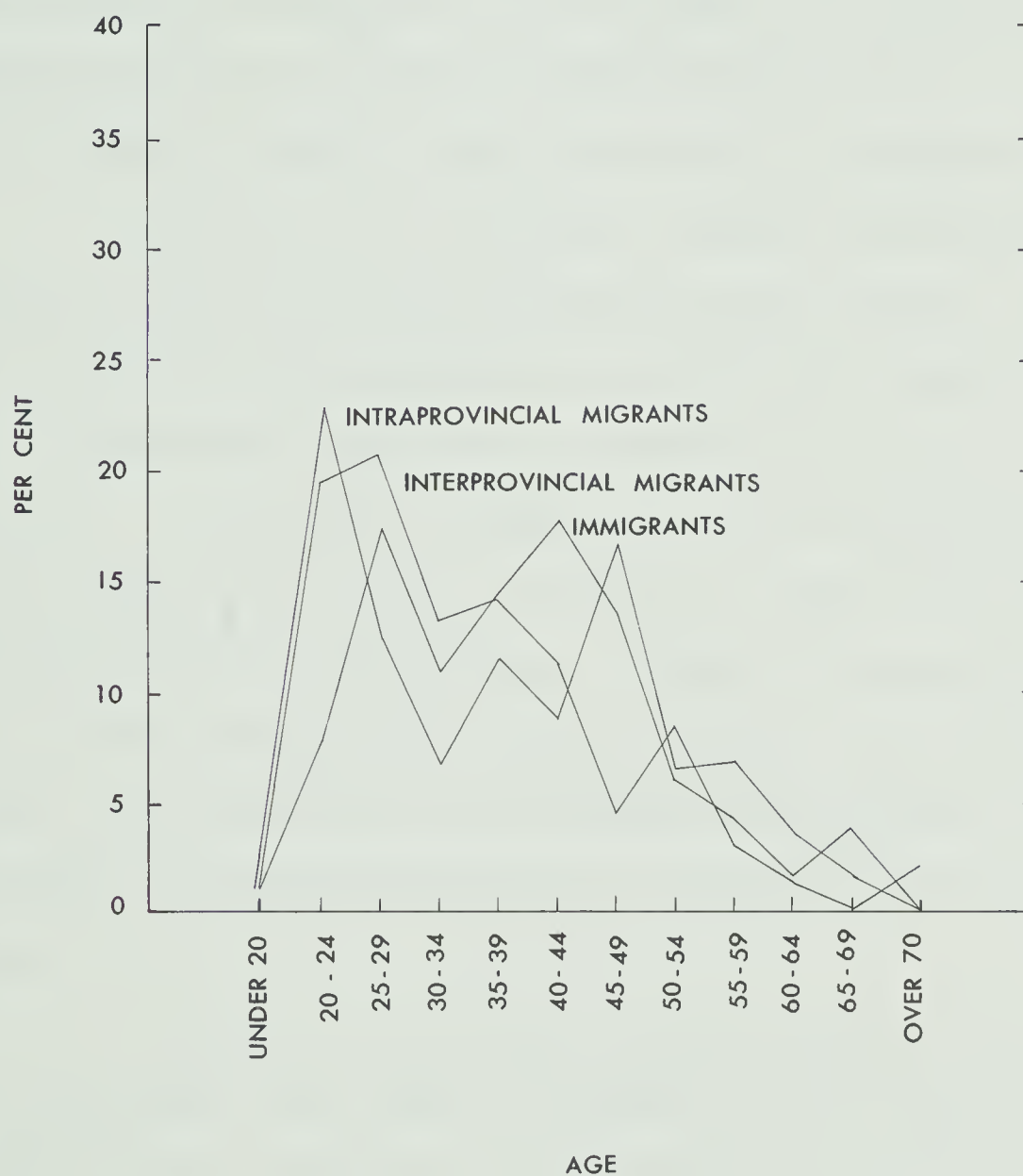
Despite these differences, however, the general pattern of age distribution for the three migrant groups shows a basic similarity. It is not surprising to find a preponderance of persons in the ages of young adulthood, for these persons are generally at the stage of life when most employment opportunities are available to them and when family and social ties are least binding. They therefore tend to be highly mobile. That this is so is reflected in the high proportion of the migrants who might be considered "economically active" at the time they entered Edmonton. The age group 20-44 years generally identifies these persons. Within the three groups, 75.2 percent of the immigrants, 70.2 percent of the interprovincial migrants, and 49 percent of the intraprovincial migrants belonged to the "economically active" category at migration.

By the time the survey was undertaken, some of the major differences in age distribution revealed above had disappeared. Figure 9 illustrates the present age distribution of the migrants. Compared with the preceding illustration, the graph reveals a striking



Figure 9

## PRESENT AGE COMPOSITION



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



absence of under-20 year olds, and there seems to be no pronounced concentration of any migrant type within any specific age group.

It will be recalled that, prior to migration, immigrants tended to concentrate in the 25-29 year age group, whereas interprovincial migrants and intraprovincial migrants were predominant in the 20-24 year and under-20 years age groups, respectively. At present, the modal age for immigrants is 40-44 years; for interprovincial migrants, 20-24 years; and for intraprovincial migrants, 25-29 years. The most marked change has taken place within the immigrant group.

Because of this, immigrants continue to maintain their position of being generally older than the other migrants. Nevertheless, they are under-represented in the most elderly age groups except for an unexpectedly high 4 percent representation in the 65-69 years age group. Interprovincial migrants tend to be over-represented in all age groups up to 39 years, and there is a high concentration of them in the over-70 years age group. Despite the increased modal age noted for intraprovincial migrants, however, they still tend to be slightly over-represented in the youthful 20-24 age group, but they also show a pronounced concentration in the 45-49 and 55-59 years age groups.

In general it can be said that most migrants are currently aged 20-44 years, since almost 70 percent of them belong to this age category. This is indicative of the continued potential of migrants for being "economically active". Of the 70 percent so identified, more than half, or 44 percent, are aged 20-34.





Figure 10 compares migrants with the general population in Edmonton. It should be pointed out that census data limitations only allowed for a comparison to be made with the 1961 base population, and it must be kept in mind that this population is currently ten years older. Also, since this study analyzes heads of migrant households, the age categories of 19 and under, as given in the census reports, were eliminated from the comparison and the remaining percentages for the base population adjusted accordingly. With due caution, then, it can be said that, compared with the overall local population, migrants are generally younger. Their relative absence in the very oldest age category is quite noticeable. The proportional representation in the over-70 years age group for the local population is almost ten times as high as for the migrants.

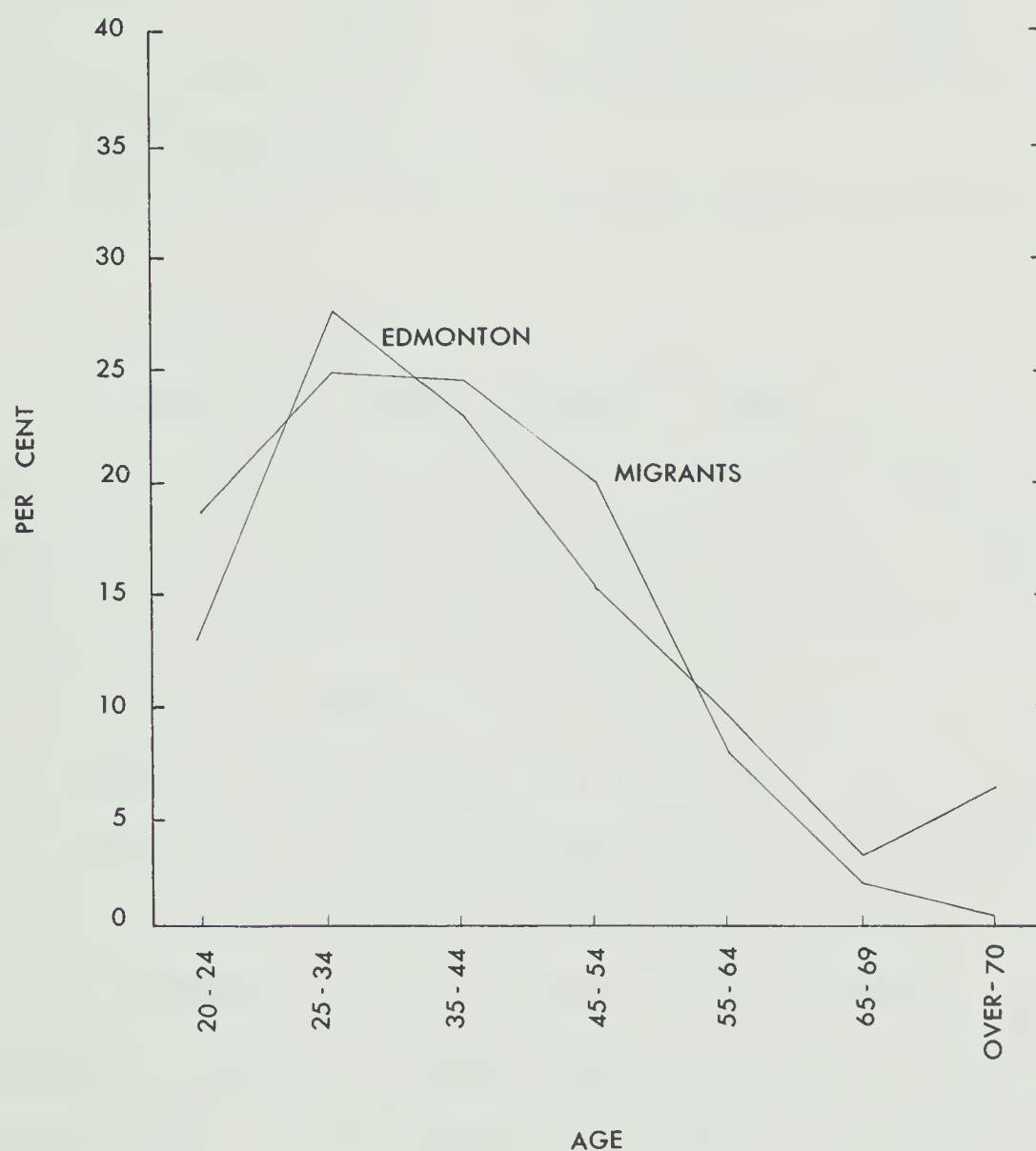
#### Length of Residence in Edmonton

The age, sex, and marital status of migrants are obviously influenced by the migrants' length of residence in the city. Table 3 shows the distribution of post-war migrants by year of arrival in Edmonton. As the table reveals, the greatest number of migrants took up residence in Edmonton during the past ten years. Altogether, almost 47 percent of the migrants arrived after 1960, as compared to 31 percent in the preceding decade. However, a substantial 22 percent had arrived between 1947 and 1950.



Figure 10

## PRESENT AGE COMPOSITION COMPARED WITH EDMONTON



Sources: Field Survey Data, 1971  
D.B.S., Census of Canada, 1961

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TABLE 3 - LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN EDMONTON

Year of Arrival in Edmonton	Immigrants %	Interprovincial Migrants %	Intraprovincial Migrants %	All Migrants %
Before 1951	6.2	8.2	31.0	21.9
1951 - 1955	25.1	18.9	9.7	15.4
1956 - 1960	24.4	11.4	14.9	16.0
1961 - 1965	33.1	40.7	25.3	30.9
Since 1966	11.2	20.8	19.1	5.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

Among those moving to Edmonton during the past ten years, the largest number came from within the interprovincial migrant group, accounting for 61.5 percent of that group's movement. Corresponding percentages for immigrants and intraprovincial migrants were 44.3 and 44.4, respectively. During the preceding ten years, 1951 - 1960, more of the immigrants than interprovincial migrants took up residence in the city. This period as a whole has previously been identified as an important one for the movement of immigrants to Canada, and the year 1957 was an especially notable one for refugee movements, specifically of Hungarians following the 1956 uprisings, and of British following the Suez crisis. In the decade 1951 - 1960, then, almost 50 percent of all post-war immigrants to Edmonton took up residence in the city. This compares with 30 percent of all post-war interprovincial migrants,



and 25 percent of all post-war intraprovincial migrants.

In general, it can be said that approximately one-third of all migrants have been resident in Edmonton for 15 years or more. Of these, intraprovincial migrants tend to over-representation. / Over 40 percent of them are so represented, as compared to 31 percent of the immigrants, and 27 percent of the interprovincial migrants.

### Family Size

Figure 11 shows the distribution of migrants according to the number of persons making up the migrating unit prior to migration. It seems that families of the smallest size were the most mobile. Forty-seven percent of the immigrant families, compared to 56 percent of the interprovincial families, and 69 percent of the intraprovincial families were one- or two-persons families.

Among migrant groups, internal migrants tended to show a higher proportional representation in the single persons family size category. This is indicative of the higher rate of mobility among single in-migrants. Almost 60 percent of all intraprovincial moves were made by one person only, whereas less than half of all interprovincial moves and less than one-third of all immigrant moves were of this nature.

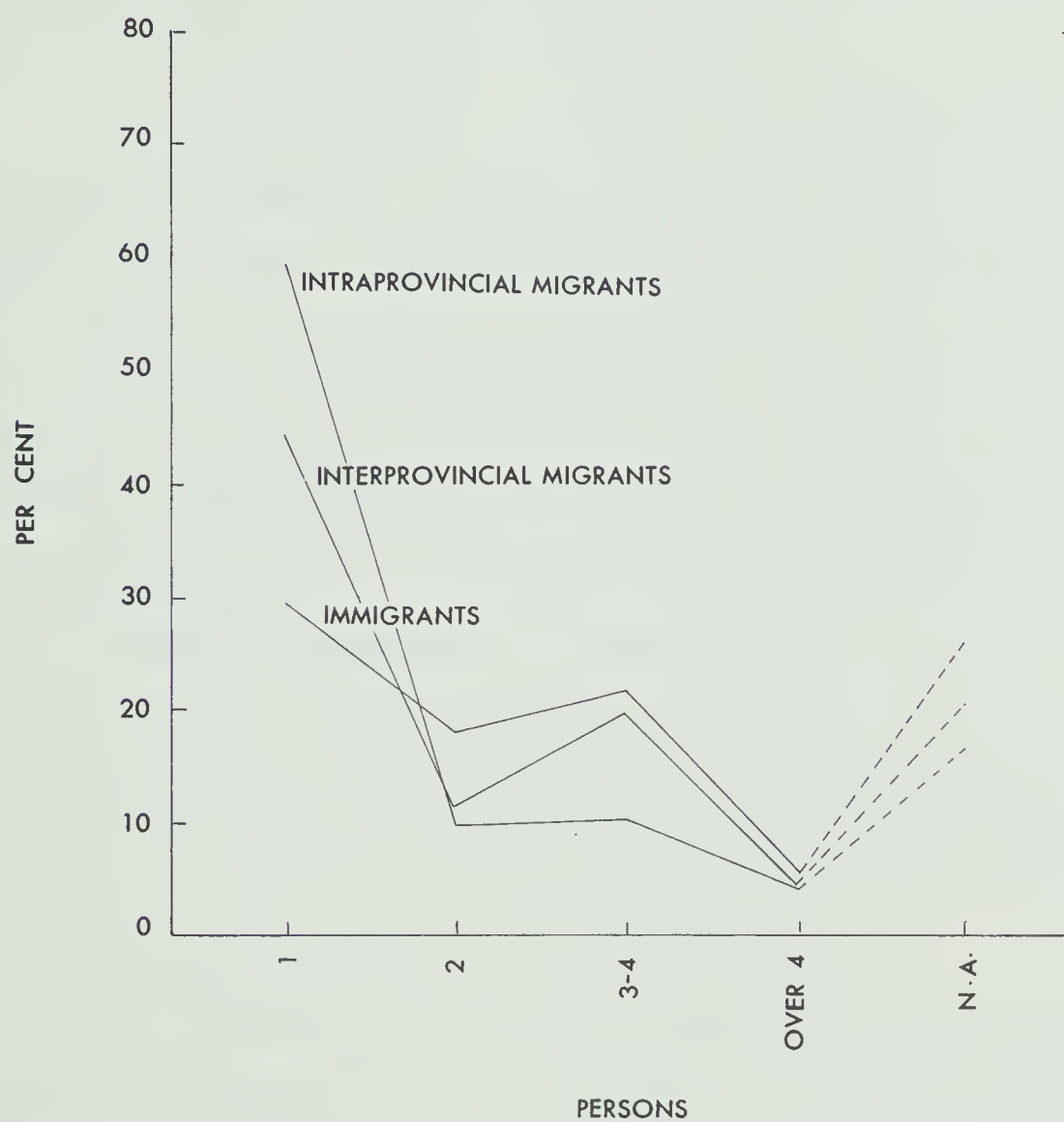
The distribution of families containing 3 or more persons serves as a guide to those families containing children at the time





Figure 11

## FAMILY SIZE AT TIME OF MIGRATION



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



of migration. As the illustration shows, even among this type of migrant the tendency still remained for moves to be made by families with as few children as possible. Only 5 percent of each migrant group comprised families of over 4 persons. This finding lends support to one of the hypotheses of migration theory which states that the volume of migration decreases with the difficulty of overcoming intervening obstacles, if children are regarded as an impediment to migration. The "N.A." category shown in the illustration identifies those migrants who did not state their family size at migration.

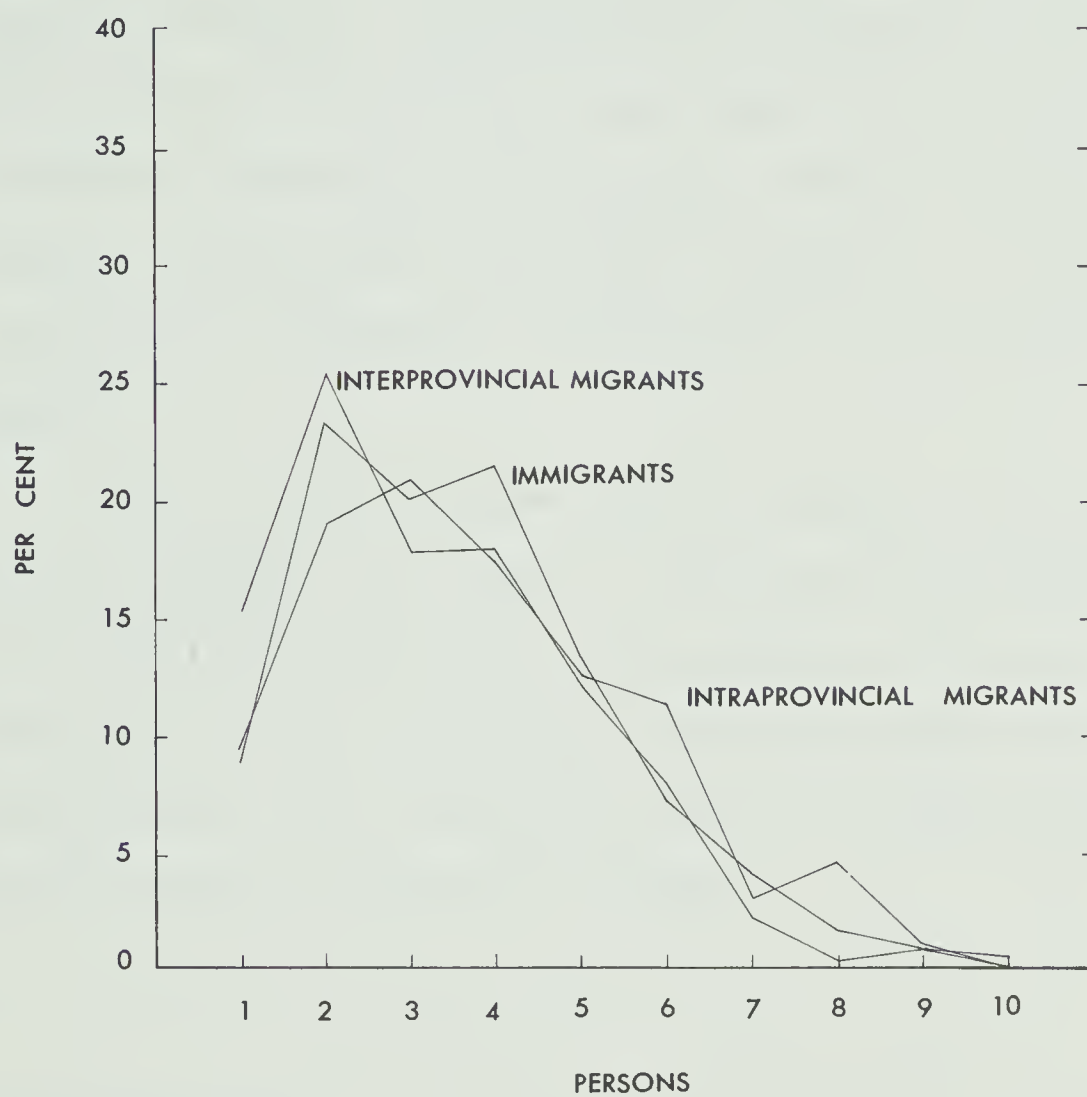
Figure 12 shows the present size distribution of migrant households in Edmonton. It was not possible to obtain data on present family size and the researcher was forced to use household size as an alternative. Due recognition is given to the fact that these two terms are not synonymous. A household may contain more than one family. Especially among immigrants, and in particular among poorer immigrants, the tendency is usually toward multi-family household units. This can give an inflated distribution of household composition when compared to family size. Bearing in mind this limitation, it can be said that one-person migrant units had fallen in significance by the time the survey was undertaken, and that the greatest number of migrant households now contain upwards of 3 persons per unit.

Intraprovincial migrants surprisingly show a pronounced affinity to households of the largest size, being over-represented in the 6-persons, 8-persons, and 10-persons size categories. These are the migrants who were predominantly single at time of migration. On



Figure 12

## PRESENT HOUSEHOLD SIZE



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



the other hand, interprovincial migrants tend to have the smallest household size, and they are over-represented in the 1-person and 2-person categories. Immigrants show an intermediate distribution, but have their highest proportional representation in the 4-persons size category. Despite these differences, however, there still is a basic similarity in the present pattern of household composition among post-war migrants in Edmonton. The proportion of households decreases as household size increases, and the largest numbers are concentrated in the categories comprising 5 or less persons. Roughly 80 percent of all immigrant households are found here, as compared to 75 percent of all interprovincial households, and 70 percent of all intraprovincial households.

When the overall migrant group is compared with the general population in Edmonton, they reveal a rather surprising similarity in household composition (Figure 13). The percentage differences among size categories are not at all marked. It might perhaps still be of some significance to note that migrants tend to be slightly over-represented in the 2-3 persons size category.

### Religious Composition

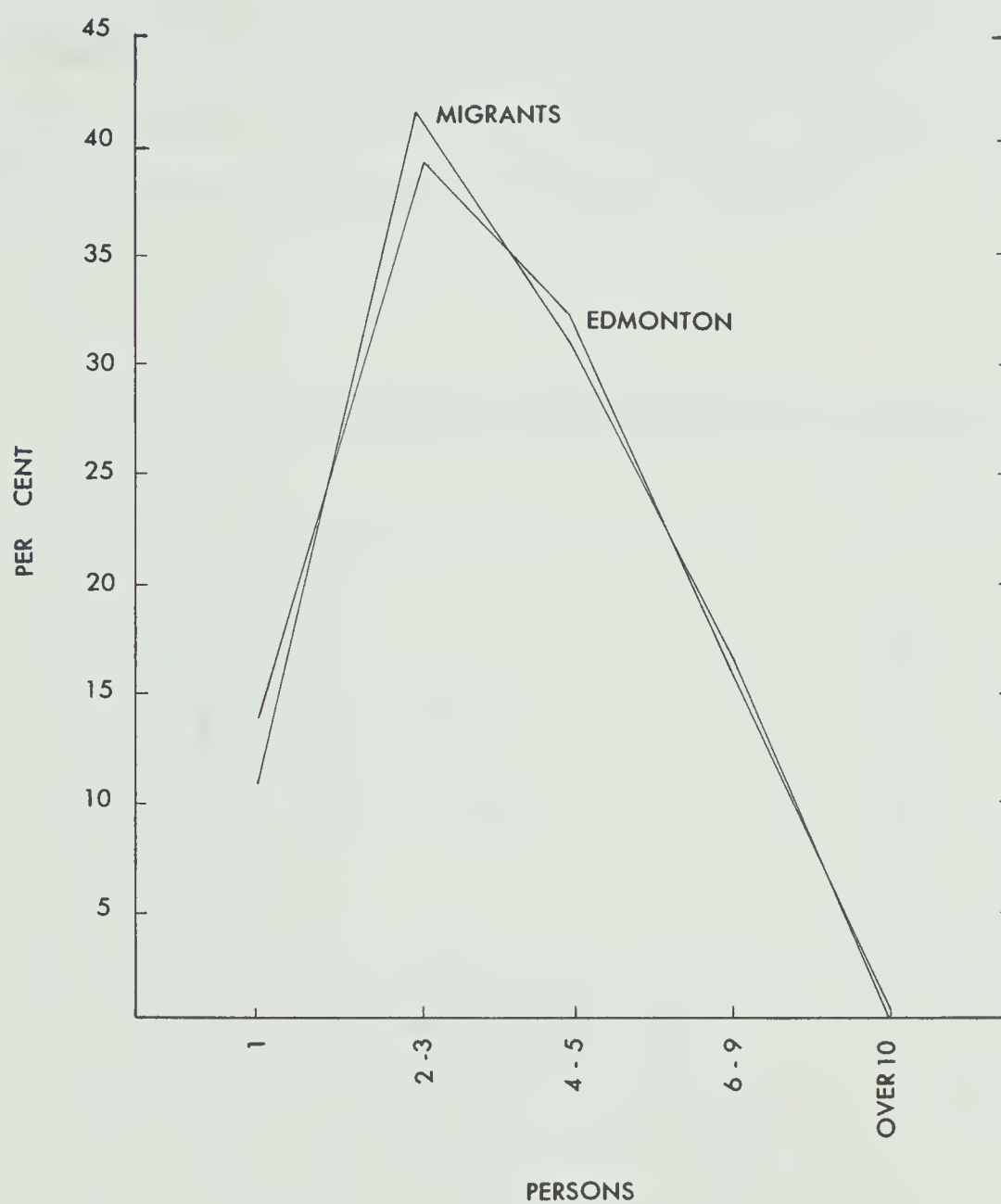
Table 4 shows the religious composition of the migrants. The category described as "Others" identifies those migrants belonging to a multitude of lesser faiths, as well as those persons who did not state a preference for any one religion. It is interesting to find





Figure 13

## PRESENT HOUSEHOLD SIZE COMPARED WITH EDMONTON



Sources: Field Survey Data, 1971  
D.B.S., Census of Canada, 1966

M.S.K.



such a high proportion of migrants in this category, almost 33 percent being so represented. Apparently, post-war migrants in Edmonton do not share with other Albertans the distinction of being classed as belonging to the "Bible Belt" of Canada. For the rest of the migrant population, Catholics form the largest single group of persons, and they are followed by migrants belonging to the United Church, 18 percent; Anglican, 9 percent; Presbyterian and Baptist, 6 percent; Lutheran, 6 percent; Orthodox, 5 percent; and Jewish, 4 percent.

TABLE 4 - RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF THE MIGRANTS

Religion	Percentage
Roman Catholic	20.1
United	17.9
Anglican	8.9
Presbyterian / Baptist	5.7
Lutheran	5.8
Russian, Greek Orthodox	5.4
Jewish	3.6
OTHERS	32.5
TOTAL	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

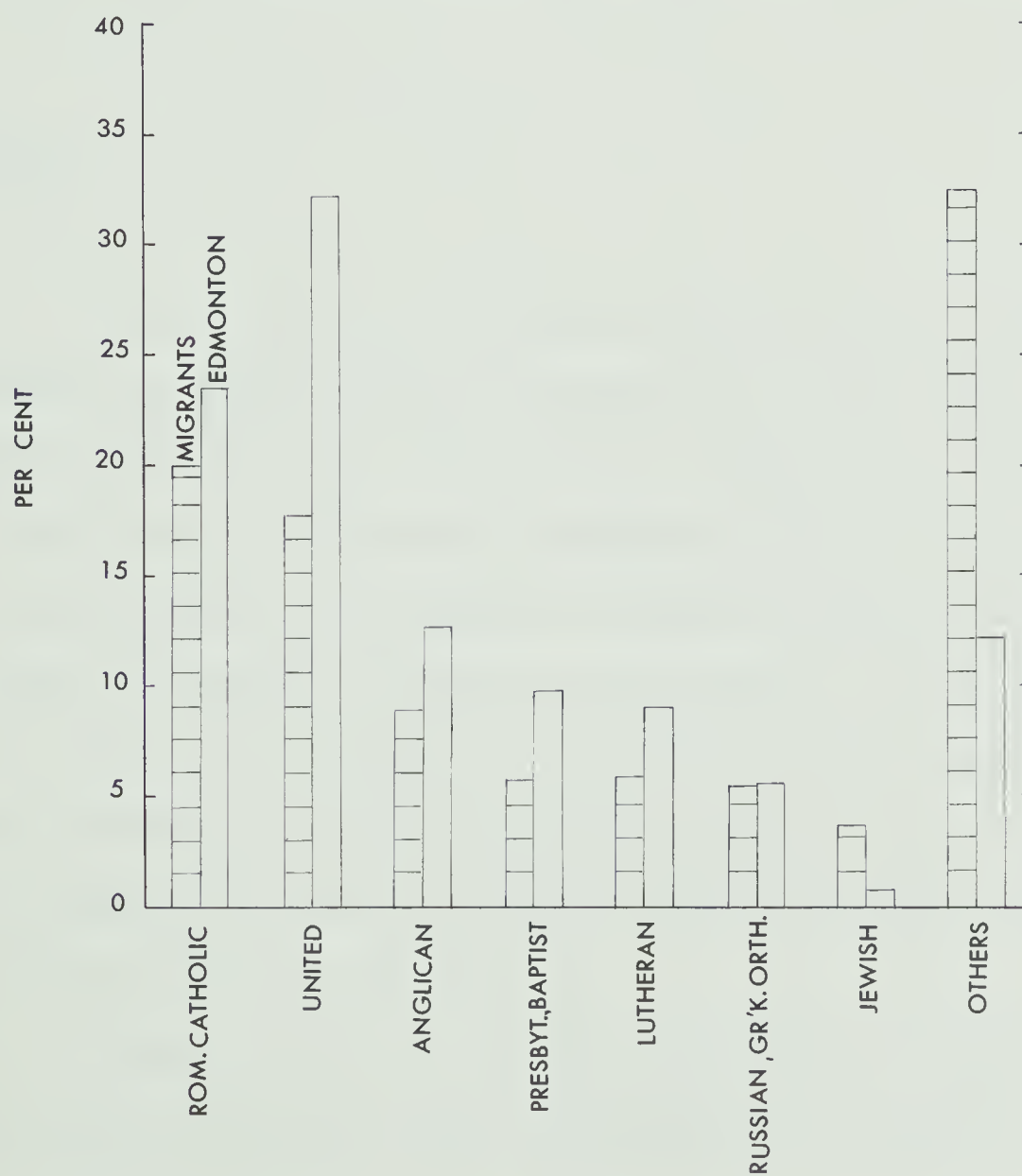
When the migrant population is compared with the general population in Edmonton, a few significant differences are revealed. Figure 14 shows the comparison. The largest single group of persons



Figure 14

## RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION

### MIGRANTS COMPARED WITH EDMONTON



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



in the general population belongs to the United Church, whereas Roman Catholics made up the largest single group of migrants. On the other hand, Roman Catholics are the second largest single group within the general population, whereas United Church affiliates form the second largest group among migrants. In general, migrants tend to have a smaller proportional representation than the general population in most religious groups. This is most likely due to their preponderance in the "Others" category. The only major religion in which migrants show a distinctly higher proportional representation is the Jewish one.

### Education

A major difficulty in making comparisons of the educational attainment of migrants needs to be pointed out. This is that language, content of curricula, and normal ages for commencing and leaving school vary from country to country and at different periods of time. Moreover, the organization of secondary and higher education differ from one country to another, such that in some countries, such as Britain, one may receive higher education for professional type occupations without necessarily attending a University, whereas in other countries, such as Germany, the same professional training would have involved a longer period of formal education.

During the survey of migrants in Edmonton, respondents were asked to state the type of formal education they had acquired before





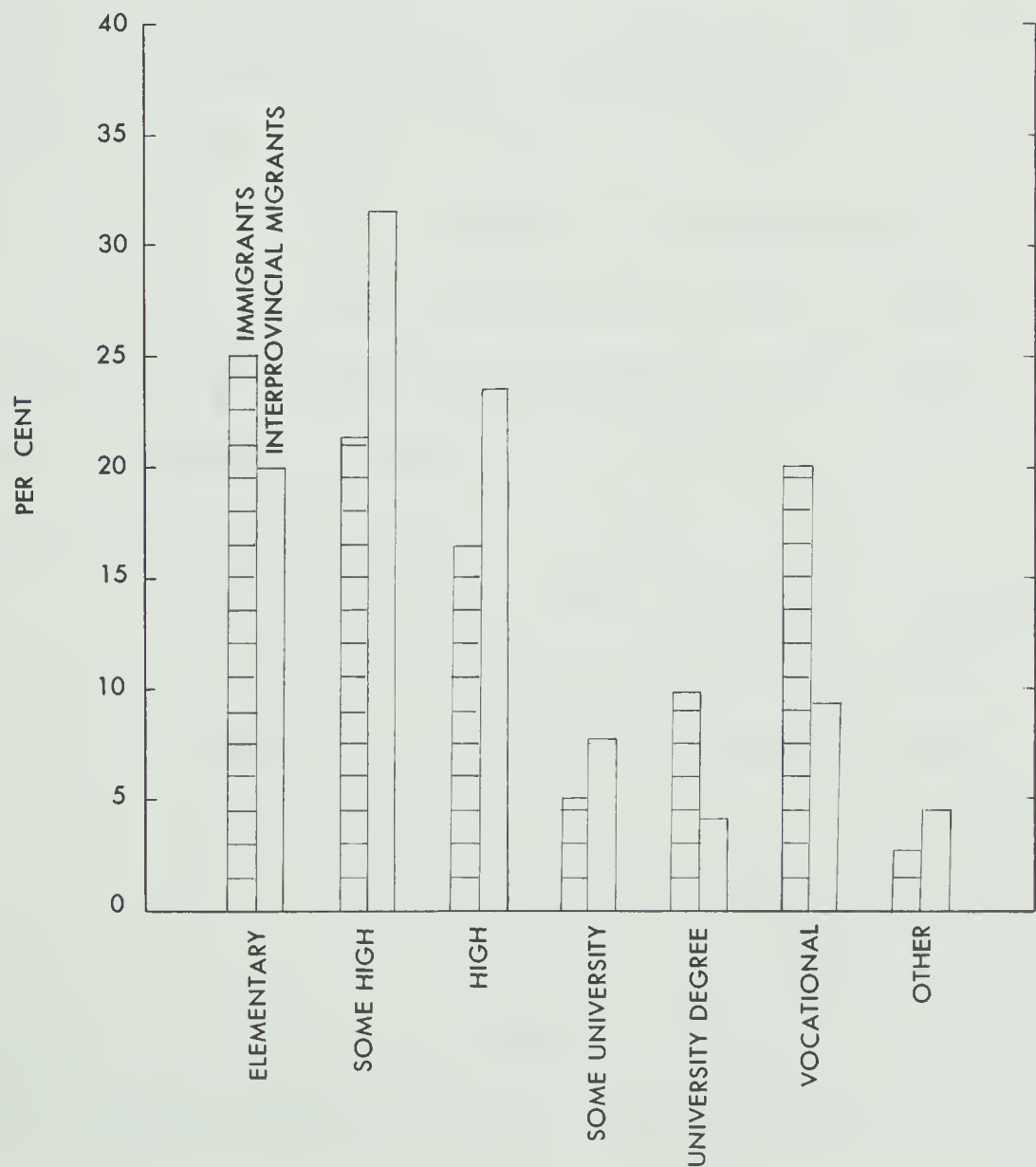
migration, as well as the number of years of formal education acquired. Both sets of data are used in the analysis in order to make the comparisons more meaningful. Figure 15 illustrates the distribution of educational types among migrant groups. It can be seen that immigrants had a higher proportional representation among those who possessed a University degree, had vocational training, or had at least completed elementary education. This means that most immigrants had completed their formal education prior to arriving in Canada. On the other hand, interprovincial migrants were predominant among those who had incomplete high school education as well as among those who had completed high school, and also among those who had incomplete University training. This may not so much be a reflection of inferior educational attainment among internal migrants, as it may be a reflection of the higher rate of mobility among internal migrants which might allow such persons to move about more freely during their years of formal education without losing too much in the process.

In terms of number of years of formal education acquired, the differences are less pronounced (Table 5). Twelve years of formal education may be taken as a meaningful separating point between persons with average to below-average education and those who are better educated. As is shown in the table, the proportion of immigrants and interprovincial migrants having 12 years or less of formal education was almost identical, 78.7 percent in the case of immigrants, and 79 percent in the case of interprovincial migrants. The concentration of both migrant types in this educational category is surprising. Past



Figure 15

EDUCATION COMPLETED  
PRIOR TO MIGRATION



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



research in migration has generally pointed to the predominance of highly educated persons within migrating units, particularly units migrating to urban areas. The finding is also surprising in view of the results obtained in the preceding analysis in which immigrants were shown to have had a higher quality of educational attainment when they were compared to interprovincial migrants.

Looking at the table in more detail, however, it is noticed that immigrants were predominant over interprovincial migrants among those who had completed under 10 years of formal education, as well as among those who had completed over 16 years of formal education. The latter group identifies persons having the highest level of education. Roughly 8 percent of the immigrants, as compared to 3 percent of the interprovincial migrants, belonged to this group prior to migration.

An even closer breakdown of the data on educational attainment reveals some interesting differences. Table 6 gives the distribution of migrants, by number of years of formal education acquired prior to migration, by country and province of birth.

The table shows that, among immigrants, the Portuguese and Italian groups tended to have the lowest level of education prior to migration to Edmonton; and, among interprovincial migrants, persons from Yukon and the North West Territories. The entire Portuguese group and all of the migrants from Yukon and the North West Territories, as well as 85 percent of the Italians had less than 10 years of formal education when they entered Edmonton. The percentage of Portuguese in the immigrant population, and the number of migrants from Yukon and



TABLE 7 - YEARS OF EDUCATION COMPLETED PRIOR TO MIGRATION, BY COUNTRY AND PROVINCE

Country or Province	Education				Total
	Under 10 yrs.	10-12 yrs.	13-16 yrs.	Over 16 yrs.	
Britain	35	44	10	11	100
Ireland	33	67	--	--	100
Germany	37	55	8	--	100
Italy	85	15	--	--	100
Netherlands	52	28	20	--	100
Portugal	100	--	--	--	100
U S S R. / Ukraine	72	19	9	--	100
Poland	77	12	11	--	100
Other E European	64	15	--	21	100
U S.A	19	13	16	52	100
Greece	32	51	17	--	100
Saskatchewan	35	47	13	5	100
Manitoba	42	46	12	--	100
British Columbia	41	35	20	4	100
Ontario	20	31	43	6	100
Maritime Provinces	32	49	19	--	100
Quebec	32	50	18	--	100
N.W.T / Yukon	100	--	--	--	100

N.B.: Figures have been rounded.

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.





the North West Territories were insignificant and these groups might, perhaps, be discounted. In that case, it can be said that Italians tended to have the lowest educational attainment of all migrants to Edmonton in the post-war era.

Italians were closely followed by immigrants from Poland, 77 percent of the latter group having less than 10 years of formal education at the time of entry. Polish immigrants nevertheless had a substantial representation, 11 percent, in the 13-16 years educational category; whereas the Italian group had no representation beyond the 12th year. These two groups of immigrants were followed by others from the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine, 72 percent; Germans, 37 percent; British, 35 percent; Greece, 32 percent; and the U.S.A., 19 percent.

The comparatively higher proportional representations in the lowest educational level of immigrants from communist countries of Europe is probably explained by the movement to Edmonton of refugees following World War II when under the auspices of the International Organization, recruitment of these persons by the Canadian immigration authorities was done with the emphasis upon selection for agriculture and the domestic service. Educational requirements were therefore low. At the same time, however, there was a significant distribution of these immigrants in the highest educational levels as well. "Other East Europeans" in particular are shown to have a relatively high representation, 21 percent, in the "over 16 years" educational category, a figure surpassed only by immigrants from the U.S.A., 52 percent. The British group was the only other with representation in



the "over 16 years" educational category, having trailed "Other East Europeans" by 11 percent.

The American group contained the smallest proportion of immigrants with a below-average education, and were also represented favourably in the other educational categories. In fact, these immigrants can be said to have been the best educated of all immigrants at time of entry to Edmonton. They were followed by British, Greeks, and Dutch, in that order.

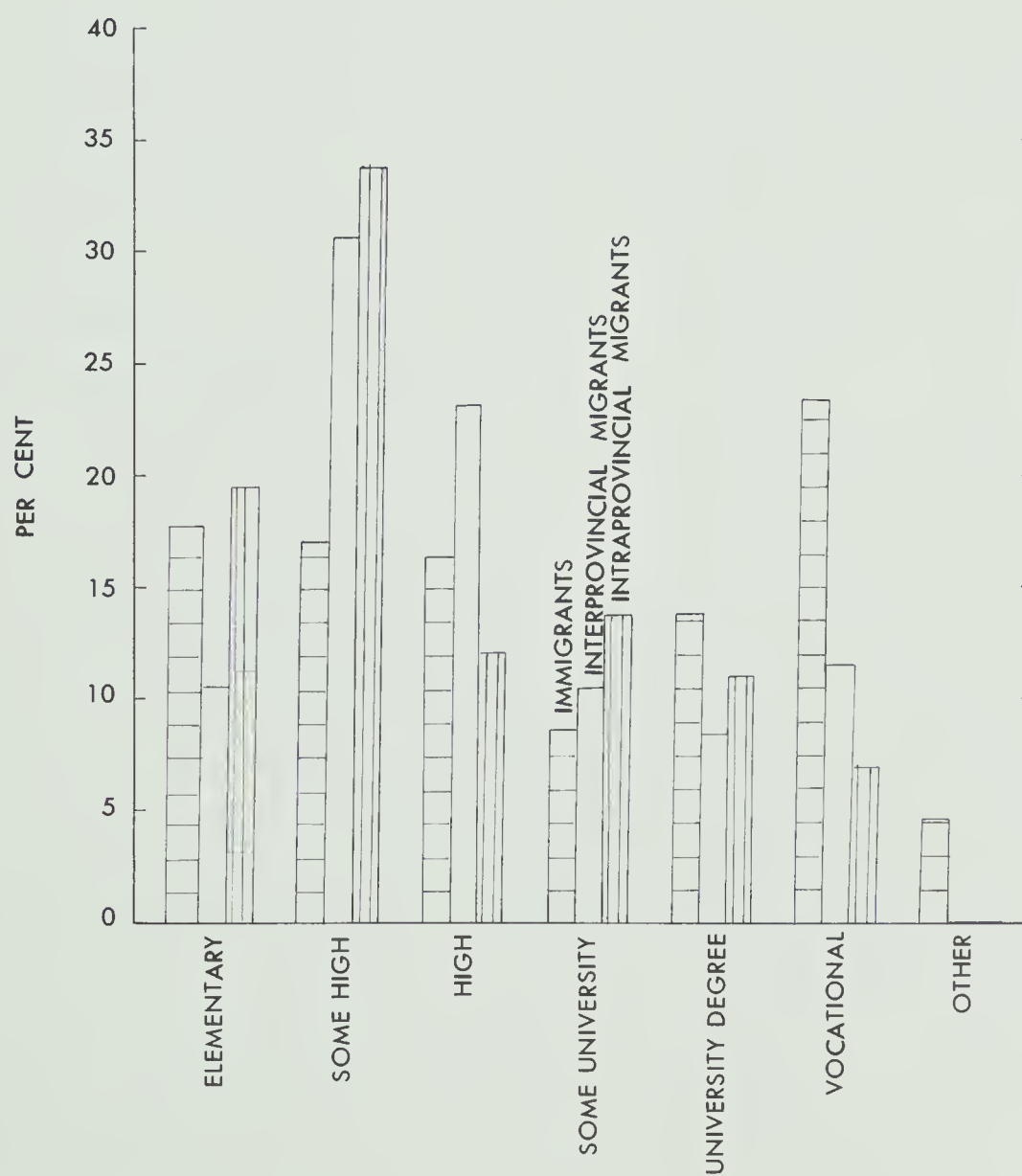
Of the interprovincial migrant group, persons from Ontario were least represented in the below-average educational category. Only 20 percent of those persons had less than 10 years of formal education prior to migration, as compared to roughly one-third of the migrants from each of the remaining provinces. Apart from migrants from Yukon and the North West Territories who, as was mentioned earlier, had total representation in this educational category, migrants from Manitoba, followed by migrants from British Columbia, tended to have high representation in that category as well. Migrants from Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia were also represented in all categories, almost half of those from Ontario having completed over 12 years of formal education, as compared to 18 percent of those from Saskatchewan, and 24 percent of those from British Columbia.

By the time the survey was taken, very few of the major differences just discussed had disappeared. Figure 16 shows the present distribution of the migrants by type of education acquired to date. As can be seen from the illustration, immigrants still tend to



Figure 16

## PRESENT EDUCATION



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.





maintain a higher proportional representation among those who have completed vocational training, as well as among those who possess a University degree. Interprovincial migrants are best represented among those who have completed high school. Intraprovincial migrants predominate among those who have completed elementary education, as well as among those who have had some high school education and some University education. A similar finding concerning the lack of completeness of formal education among interprovincial migrants at time of migration was noted in the preceding section, and the results reported above for intraprovincial migrants would seem to reinforce the suggestion made concerning the relatively low educational attainment of internal migrants. Apparently, then, length of residence in Edmonton has had little effect on the educational attainment of post-war migrants. This is not unexpected in the case of immigrants, since these persons were found to have had completed formal education prior to entering Canada. It would have to be assumed, then, that internal migrants are generally less educated than international migrants, and that among internal migrants, movers originating in the province of Alberta are less educated than interprovincial migrants. In an indirect way, therefore, distance can be said to have had a distinct bearing on educational attainment, since type and intensity of formal education seemed to increase with increased distance between the migrants' places of origin and Edmonton.



## Occupation

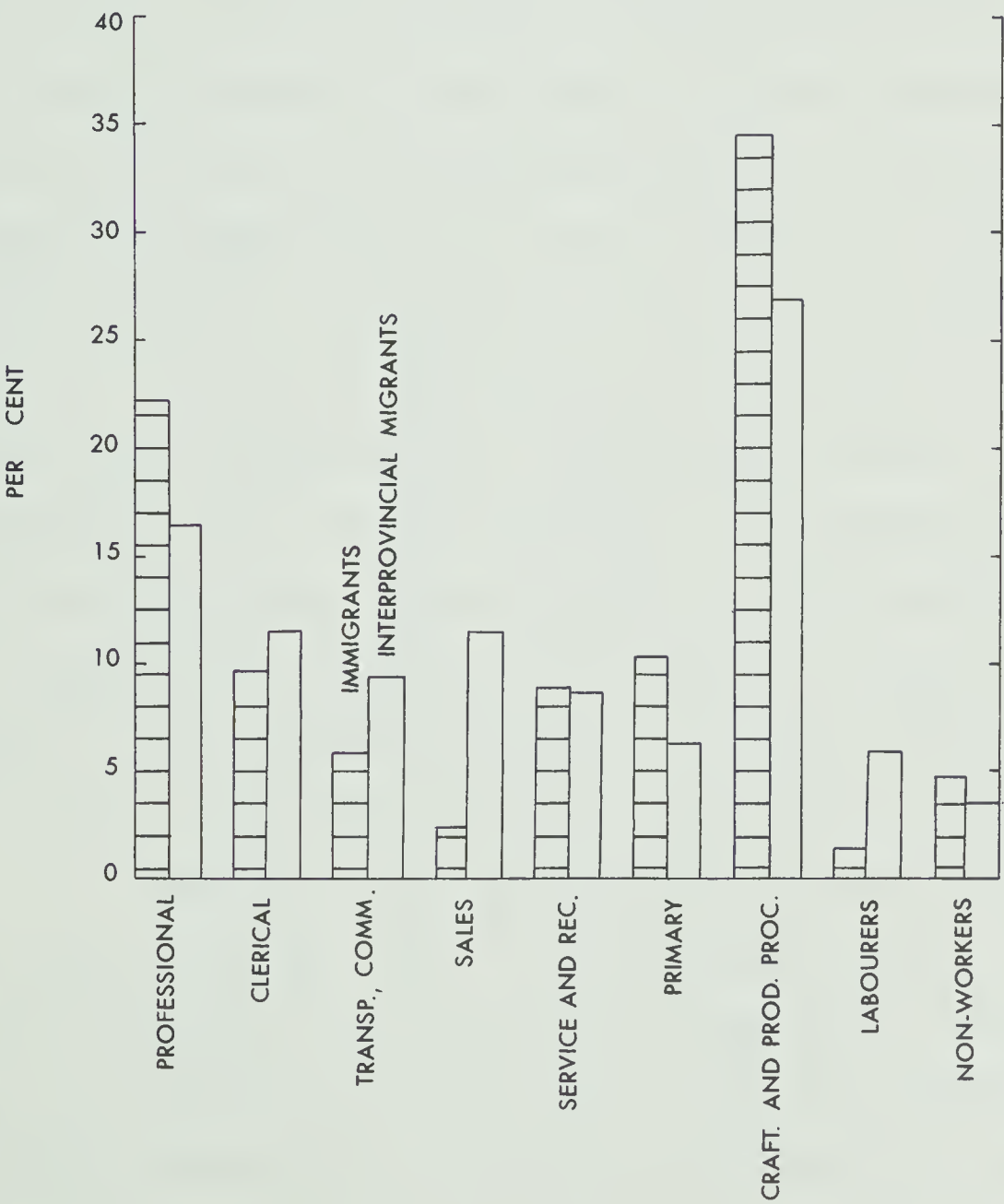
The educational level achieved prior to migration is closely related to the occupation with which the migrant was involved prior to migration. Figure 17 shows the distribution, by occupational groups, of immigrants and interprovincial migrants to Edmonton. Both groups reveal a tendency to predominate in the category described as "craftsmen, and production processing". This category included workers in construction, manufacturing and mechanical trades. Immigrants tended to be over-represented here, having out-numbered the interprovincial group by almost 10 percent. The second largest category included workers in managerial, professional and technical occupations, described as "professional". Roughly 22 percent of the immigrant group, as compared to 16 percent of the interprovincial group belonged to this occupational category prior to migration.

In general, it can be said that immigrants showed a preponderance in three main occupational categories, namely, Craftsmen and Production Processing; Professional; and Primary. They also out-numbered the other migrants in the "Non-workers" category which is comprised of housewives and students. Interprovincial migrants, on the other hand, tended to have relatively high proportional representations in four occupational categories, namely, Clerical; Transport and Communication; Sales; and Labourers. Finally, representation in the Service and Recreation occupational category was almost identical for all migrants.



Figure 17

# OCCUPATION PRIOR TO MIGRATION



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



By the time the survey was undertaken, a few important differences within occupational categories and among migrant groups had emerged. Figure 18 illustrates the present occupational composition of the three migrant groups in Edmonton, and at the same time provides a comparison between the migrants and the general labour force population of the city.

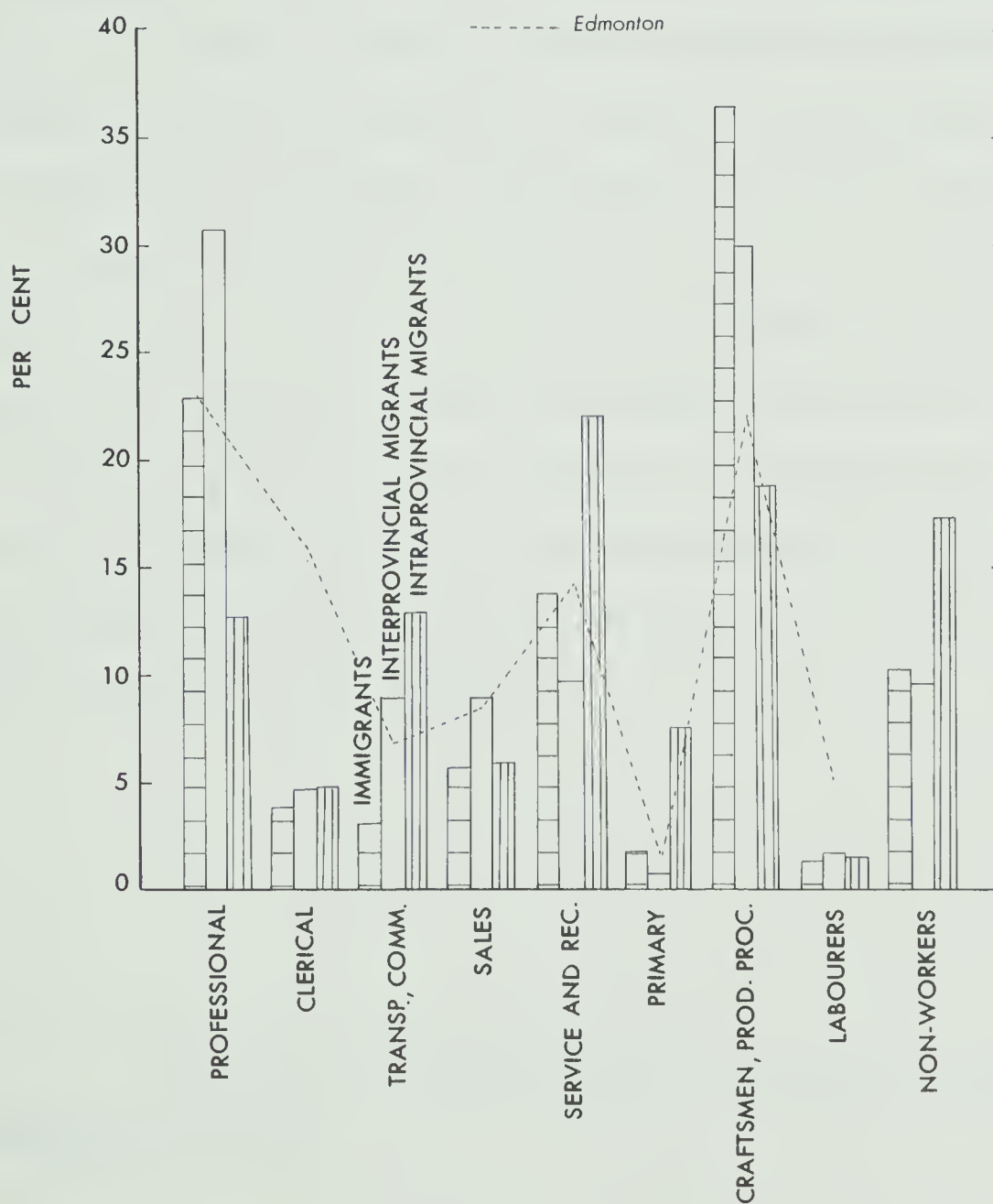
First of all, the Professional occupational category still maintains second position among immigrants, but now assumes first place among interprovincial migrants. Intraprovincial migrants tend to be under-represented in this category, but show a pronounced affiliation with the Service and Recreation occupation, as well as with Transport and Communication, and Primary occupations. They also have a high proportional representation in the non-working category of migrants. The noticeable representation of immigrants in the Primary category prior to migration has virtually been eliminated at present, but immigrants still tend to predominate in the Craftsmen and Production Processing category, almost 40 percent of them being so represented. This compares with 30 percent of the interprovincial migrants and 20 percent of the intraprovincial migrants. In general, therefore, migrants still tend to concentrate in this latter occupational category.

Compared with the overall working force population in the city, post-war migrants are seen to have proportionately low representation in Clerical, Sales, and Labouring occupations. Furthermore, they tend to be relatively over-represented in Craftsmen and Production Processing, Professional, and Transport and Communication occupations.



Figure 18

## PRESENT OCCUPATION COMPARED WITH EDMONTON



Sources: Field Survey Data, 1971

D.B.S., Census of Canada, 1961

M.S.K.





Finally, a general similarity between them and the overall labour force in Edmonton is noted for Professional, and Transport and Communication occupations.

Past research has generally pointed to the fact that the occupations which migrants enter are related to the types of economic opportunities available at the place of destination. It is also true that the occupational distribution of immigrants is often dictated by the requirements and immigration policies of the receiving country. These points should be borne in mind in considering the present and former distribution of occupational categories among migrants to the city in the post-war period. Especially in the case of immigrants, the relatively high proportion found in construction, manufacturing, service, primary, and also professional occupations is definitely related, not so much to the fact that Edmonton functions as a centre for services, the oil industry, education, and administration in the province of Alberta, as it is to Canadian immigration policy in the post-war period which has often encouraged group movements of workers in the occupations listed above.<sup>11</sup>

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This fact is elaborated in A.H. Richmond, Post-War Immigrants in Canada. op. cit., pp.47-48.



## Chapter IV

### THE MIGRATION DECISION PROCESS

#### INTRODUCTION

The preceding chapter served to characterize some of the ways in which post-war migrants to Edmonton formed a distinctive group of persons. Such characteristics are sometimes used in migration literature to explain why migration takes place. Nevertheless, although migration cannot occur in the absence of these characteristics, the differentials in themselves can never be a sufficient cause of migration, but provide information only indirectly about the process of moving.

Migration theory states that the process of migration is selective only because persons of like characteristics tend to respond similarly to attractive and repelling factors at place of origin and at place of destination, and have similar abilities to overcome the intervening obstacles. Hence, in order to understand why a migration occurred it is necessary to examine the various ways in which the particular migrant or group of migrants responded to the factors of migration. This could easily be determined by directly asking the migrant why he moved and by analysing the data so obtained.

This chapter seeks to provide answers to questions on the push and pull factors at place of origin and at Edmonton. Generally speaking, these factors which cause migration to occur are not always



easily described, for the migrants very often are unable to respond realistically to inquiries concerning their reasons for migration. This point was made clear during the field survey when respondents were found to list two, and sometimes more, reasons why they migrated. Obviously, one of these reasons must have been of greatest significance in causing the migration to occur. Push-Pull theory indicates that a migrant normally takes several factors into consideration when he decides to migrate, but it normally is one major factor which triggers off the actual movement. That factor may either be a "push" factor, at place of origin, or a "pull" factor, at place of destination. However, in recognition of the difficulty in choosing one factor as the possible significant one, the researcher decided to use only first responses in the analysis. An alternative method, of course, would have been to sum all the responses, categorize them, and then analyse them. Such an approach would have defeated the purpose of the analysis.

In the following analysis, the motivating factors which the migrants gave as their first response to the inquiry fell into six major categories, namely, economic and occupational; family; travel and adventure; political; educational; and personal. A seventh category, described simply as "other", comprised those factors which did not fit neatly in the other six, and since this category is made up from a variety of other factors, the percentages obtained for it are not meaningful for comparative purposes and were excluded from the analysis.



## REASONS FOR LEAVING PLACE OF ORIGIN

Figure 19 illustrates the breakdown of responses for immigrants and interprovincial migrants when they were asked what motivated them to leave their places of origin. The preponderance of economic motives among both groups of migrants is clear. Thirty-seven percent of all immigrant moves and 53 percent of all interprovincial migrant moves were motivated by economic "push" factors. This finding agrees with results generally obtained in migration research, and is therefore not surprising. This is even more so in the case of Edmonton in the post-World War II period. This period has only seen few, if any, major social upheavals or natural catastrophes in the world, and migrations are expected to be voluntary, allowing people to migrate primarily to improve their material conditions in life.

It was somewhat surprising to find such a high percentage of immigrants listing political motives as the cause of their migration. Twenty-two percent of the immigrants did so, whereas no one among the in-migrant group mentioned them. However, 13 percent out of the 22 percent of immigrants listing political motives described these in terms of the war draft. Apparently, a high proportion of Americans is reflected in these figures.

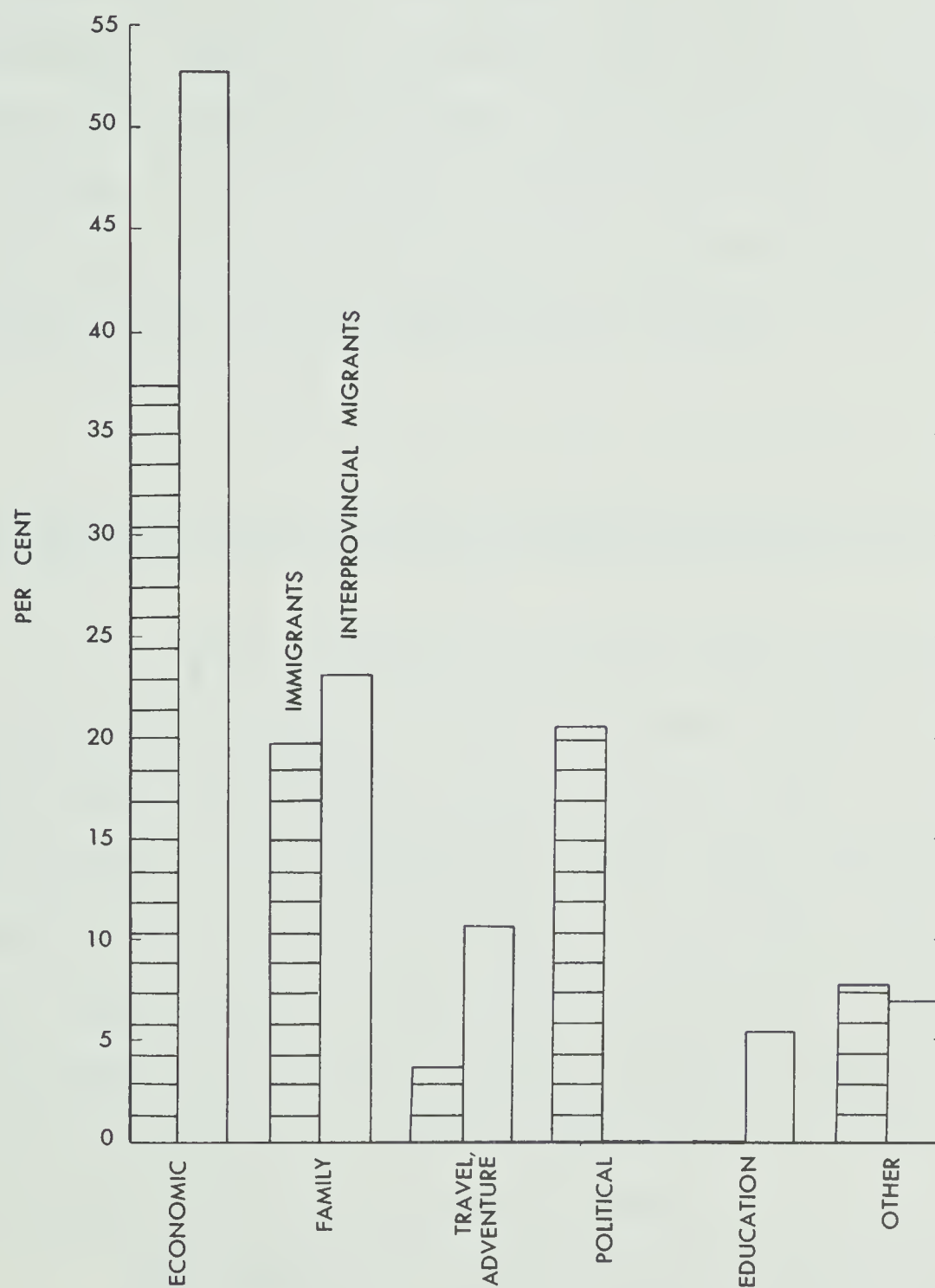
The second most important reason for leaving quoted by interprovincial migrants was family considerations, and is a reflection of dependency at time of migration. It will be recalled that a





Figure 19

## REASONS FOR LEAVING ORIGIN



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



substantial proportion of these migrants were under 20 years of age at time of migration. Twenty-three percent listed family considerations, as compared to 19 percent of the immigrants. Travel and adventure constituted the next most important motives, accounting for 14 percent and 12 percent of immigrant and interprovincial moves, respectively. Educational motives were last on the list, representing 6 percent of interprovincial moves. No one among the immigrants was similarly motivated, and this is probably a reflection of the previous finding that the majority of immigrants had already completed formal education by the time they had migrated to Canada.

#### Differences in Reasons for Leaving Among Sub-categories of Migrants

A detailed breakdown of the data reveals that of the 37 percent of the immigrants who left their place of origin for economic reasons, 24.4 percent moved in order to obtain a better or higher paying job, while the remaining 12.9 percent moved because of unemployment and hard living conditions. In the case of the interprovincial migrant group, of the 53 percent who moved for economic reasons, 26.5 percent did so in order to obtain a better or higher paying job, while 11.3 percent moved because of unemployment, and the remaining 14.8 percent moved because of job transfers.

Thus, there were three basic types of economic movement, namely, moves related to upgrading; unemployment; and transfers. Of



the three types, upgrading moves were of greatest significance in contributing to migration, being even more important to Canadian-born migrants than to immigrants. Despite the acknowledged supremacy of economic motives, however, it is perhaps just as significant to note that two out of every three moves involving immigrants, and almost half of the moves involving in-migrants, were explained on non-economic grounds. Thus, although the finding reported here is substantiated in the "economic opportunity" theme of Push-Pull migration theory, it also lends support to the insistence of several authors that there is as strong a need to also differentiate migration with respect to non-economic social factors.<sup>1</sup>

A more detailed analysis of the "push" factors is made possible through a study of cross-classifications of some migrant characteristics, two of which, age and education, have been chosen for the analysis. Table 7 summarizes the factors according to four major age groups: the under-20 years old; 20-44; 45-64; and the over-64 years old. The table shows that, for immigrants, the proportion of migratory moves revealed no consistent relationship with age among those who gave economic reasons as their primary motive for migration. The proportion tended to decrease with age up to age 44 for those who listed family reasons, but increased again after that, the latter increase probably reflecting the movement of elderly dependents. An increase with age

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<sup>1</sup>

See footnotes 19 and 20 of Chapter I, p.16.



is reflected among those who were motivated to leave by a desire for adventure and travel, but only up to age 44. Finally, among those who listed political reasons, a consistent increase with age is noted, if the over-64 age group is discounted. The relatively high proportion of immigrants in the 45-64 age group listing political motivation is a probable reflection of the movement of persons to Edmonton in the years immediately following World War II.

TABLE 7 - REASONS FOR LEAVING ORIGIN, BY AGE AT MIGRATION

Age Group	Percent Who Migrated Because Of . . .					<u>Total</u>
	Economic	Family	Travel	Political/ Educational	Other	
<hr/>						
<u>IMMIGRANTS</u>	(Political)					
Under 20 years	32	53	5	10	--	100
20 - 44 "	39	12	18	20	11	100
45 - 64 "	27	19	5	40	9	100
Over 64 "	100	--	--	--	--	100
<hr/>						
<u>INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS</u>	(Educational)					
Under 20 years	27	50	5	7	10	100
20 - 44 "	57	11	5	14	12	100
45 - 64 "	62	38	-	--	--	100
Over 64 "	57	43	-	--	--	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

For interprovincial migrants, the relationships were almost reversed. Migratory moves motivated by economic factors increased with age, except after age 64; whereas the number of moves made for family





reasons declined with increasing age up to age 44 and increased again after that. Those motivated by a desire for adventure and travel belonged exclusively to the under 45 years age group, as were those motivated by educational factors.

Apart from these major differences among age groups, a few others revealed within groups are worthy of note. At least one-half of all migrants who were under 20 years of age at time of migration moved because of dependency within a family unit. However, a significant proportion of this age group, representing 32 percent immigrants and 27 percent interprovincial migrants, moved for economic reasons. The latter were probably the oldest within that age group who were leaving home for the first time to take up a job in Edmonton.

Migrants in the next oldest age group, 20-44 years, moved predominantly for economic reasons. This is as was expected, since this group has elsewhere been identified as being "economically active" and therefore motivated most highly by economic considerations. Within the 45-64 years age group, however, only 27 percent of the immigrants, as compared to 62 percent of the interprovincial migrants, listed economic motives. Foremost among their motives was the political factor which accounted for 40 percent of the moves motivated in that way. Within the oldest age group, percentages are not as meaningful as they might appear since the volume of migrants represented here accounted for a mere 1 percent of the total population. Nevertheless, note should perhaps be taken of the fact that migration for



reasons of health or retirement were not mentioned by anyone within this age group.

Table 8 shows the relationship between years of formal education acquired prior to migration and the motive for migration.

TABLE 8 - REASONS FOR LEAVING ORIGIN, BY EDUCATION PRIOR TO MIGRATION

Years of Education Acquired	Economic	Family	Travel	Political/ Educational	Other	<u>Total</u>
<u>IMMIGRANTS</u>			(Political)			
0 - 9 yrs	36	29	4	27	4	100
10 - 12 "	39	11	23	23	4	100
Over 12 "	40	6	23	10	21	100
<u>INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS</u>			(Educational)			
0 - 9 yrs.	40	42	12	--	6	100
10 - 12 "	66	13	9	3	9	100
Over 12 "	39	8	15	20	18	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

For immigrants, the proportion who moved for economic reasons, as well as for travel and adventure reasons, increased with education; whereas the proportion decreased for those motivated by family considerations and political factors. Compared with the relationships revealed in the preceding table, it is found that the economic motivation for migration had no consistent relationship with



age but tended to increase with education; family motivation decreased with both age and education; travel and adventure motivation generally increased with age and education; and political motivation increased with age but decreased with education.

In the case of interprovincial migrants, a consistent decrease with increasing education was noted for only those migrants who were motivated by family reasons, whereas a consistent increase with education was noted for those motivated by educational factors. Economic motivation for this group of migrants tended to increase with education, except for the highest educated.

For all migrants, the only consistent relationship revealed concerned the fact that family factors declined in importance as education increased. Also, the economic motive was supreme among all motives and for all educational categories. The only exception to this finding was for interprovincial migrants with under 10 years of formal education. Family considerations had a 2 percent edge over economic reasons as motivating factors for this group of migrants. These persons, the relatively under-educated, also appeared to be thoroughly un-motivated by educational considerations. The difference between them and their better-educated counterparts is quite pronounced when the comparison is made between them and those migrants who had completed 12 years or more of formal education. Twenty percent of the latter group listed educational factors as their prime motivation for migration. One would have expected people of low education to be more highly motivated by educational considerations, and even more so



by economic factors. It might perhaps be in order to suggest that such persons probably lacked the educational and occupational reasons for migration since their educational and economic opportunities would have been limited in any case.

#### REASONS FOR CHOOSING EDMONTON

Figure 20 illustrates the breakdown of responses for all migrant groups when they were asked why they came to Edmonton. Again, as in the case of "push" factors, an almost similar finding for the economic "pull" factor is revealed. Economic motives accounted for 35 percent of all immigrant moves to Edmonton, 51 percent of all interprovincial moves, and 48 percent of intraprovincial moves. The higher response to the pull of economic factors noted for internal migrants is consistent with general migration research findings.<sup>2</sup> The explanation is that, unlike international migration, internal migration is subject to fewer and less imposing obstacles and this allows for greater freedom of movement within a state. Internal migrants thus tend to be attracted to places like Edmonton where, especially in the post-war period, employment opportunities and real wages have generally been good.

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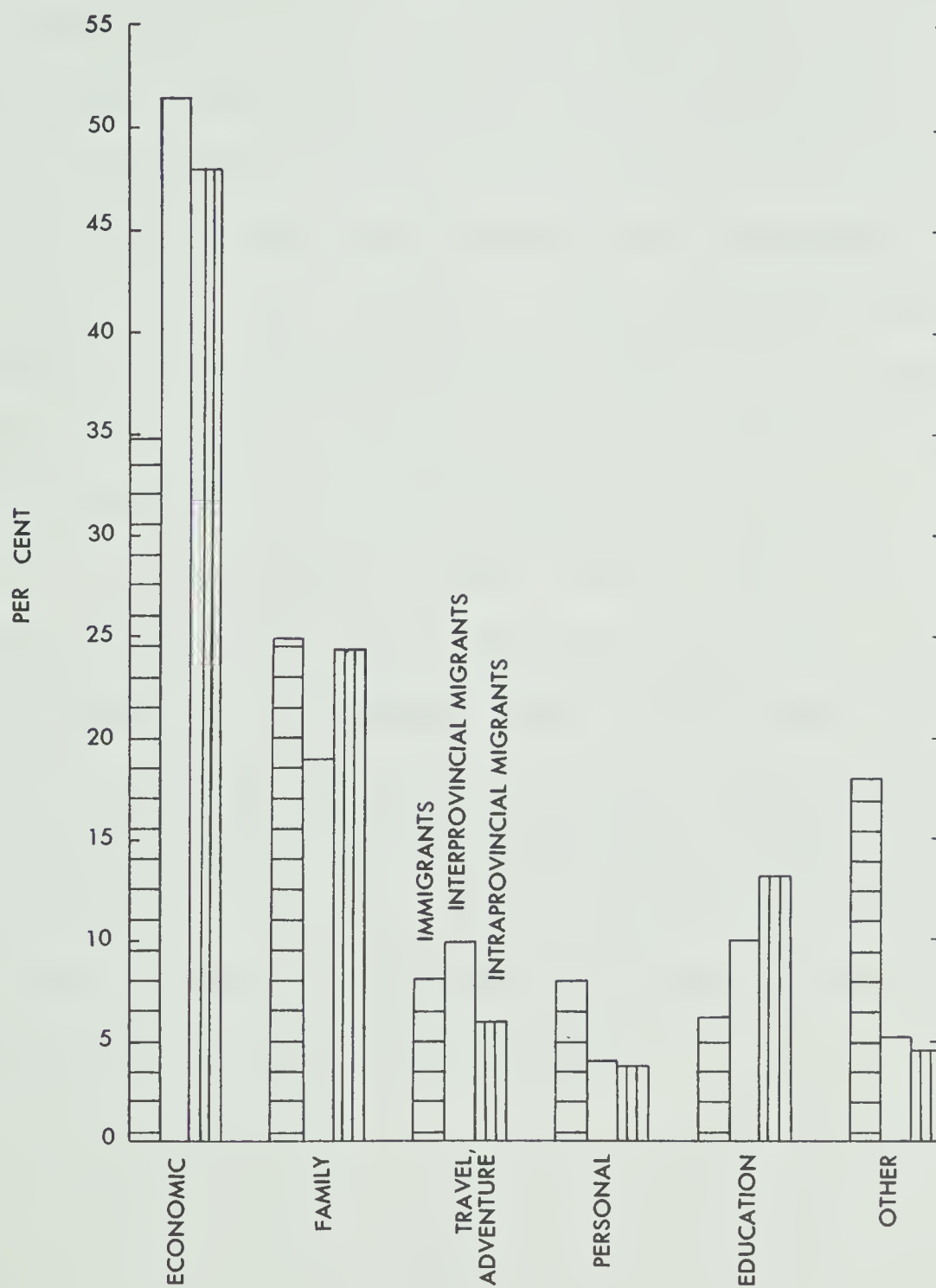
See, for example, D.O. Price, "Some Socio-economic Factors in Internal Migration." Social Forces, Vol.29, 1950-51, pp.409-415; and United Nations, The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends. op. cit., Chapter 16.





Figure 20

## REASONS FOR CHOOSING EDMONTON



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



Political motivation for migration was conspicuously absent among "pull" factors listed by all migrants. One would have expected some proportion of the immigrant population to be attracted to the city because of favourable political conditions, especially in view of the relatively substantial proportion of immigrants who listed the political motive as their reason for leaving their place of origin. All migrants also showed a similar trend in listing family considerations as their second most important factor in choosing Edmonton. Family motives accounted for 25 percent of all immigrant and intra-provincial moves, and 19 percent of all interprovincial moves. Immigrants were next highly motivated by the desire to travel and explore a new country, but both groups of in-migrants were next motivated by the attraction of Edmonton as an educational centre.

As in the case of "push" factors, then, economic considerations were the acknowledged outstanding "pull" factor contributing to post-war migration to Edmonton. Again, it is perhaps just as important to note that two out of every three moves involving immigrants were motivated by non-economic "pull" factors, as were one-half of the moves involving in-migrants. Thus, the importance between attractive and repelling factors in migration remained constant for overall economic and non-economic considerations.



Differences in Reasons for Choosing Edmonton Among Sub-categories of Migrants

Table 9 presents the cross-classification of the attractive factors by age for two migrant groups. Compared with the results obtained in the preceding similar table for repelling factors, very few consistent relationships are revealed in the present table. For all migrants, the attraction of Edmonton for educational purposes tended to decrease with increasing age, and it increased with age for those persons listing personal factors as their primary motive for moving to Edmonton. Also, among those listing economic motives as their primary factor in migration, an increase with age is revealed, but only up to age 44. After that, the proportion declined.

TABLE 9 - REASONS FOR CHOOSING EDMONTON, BY AGE AT MIGRATION

Age Group	Percent Who Moved Because of . . .					
	Economic	Family	Travel	Educational	Personal	Other
<u>IMMIGRANTS</u>						
Under 20 yrs.	35	37	--	11	2	15
20 - 44 "	37	18	10	6	8	19
45 - 64 "	23	41	--	--	36	--
Over 64 "	--	--	64	--	36	--
<u>INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS</u>						
Under 20 yrs.	32	36	6	20	2	4
20 - 44 "	61	10	12	7	5	5
45 - 64 "	39	34	--	--	-	27
Over 64 "	--	100	--	--	-	--

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.



Immigrants in the under 20 years age group tended to be attracted to Edmonton almost as strongly for economic reasons as for family reasons. These factors accounted for 35 percent and 37 percent, respectively, of all moves within that age group. On the other hand, the highly labour-mobile group, the 20-44 years age group, showed a pronounced attraction for economic reasons, 37 percent of that group's movement being so accounted for. Next on this group's list was family considerations which accounted for 18 percent of their moves. Finally, immigrants in the 45-64 years age group tended to be somewhat differently attracted. Family considerations and personal reasons were first and second, respectively, on their list of motives, the former accounting for 41 percent of their moves, and the latter for 36 percent. Economic motivation was the least significant, accounting for a mere 23 percent of the group's movement.

Interprovincial migrants showed a pronounced attraction for economic factors, and the attraction was particularly marked for those in the 20-44 years age group. Sixty-one percent of the moves within that age group were motivated by economic factors. This group identifies the labour-mobile persons, so that their high percentage representation here is again not surprising. On the other hand, migrants in the under 20 years age group were primarily motivated by family factors, although the importance of these factors was somewhat reduced by the relatively high proportions obtained for economic reasons and for educational reasons. Finally, in-migrants in the next





oldest age group, 45-64 years, tended to be almost equally motivated by economic reasons as by family reasons, 39 percent and 34 percent of their moves being accounted for by these two factors.

Table 10 sets out the relationship between education completed prior to migration and the attractive factors. The results again reveal the difficulty in pinpointing many overall consistent relationships. From the table, it would appear that migrants were not so sure of their reasons for choosing Edmonton as their place of destination as they were about their reasons for leaving their place of origin. The only consistent relationship revealed was that, for both groups of migrants, the attraction of Edmonton for family reasons tended to decline as level of education increased. A similar relationship held true in the case of "push" factors.

TABLE 10 - REASONS FOR CHOOSING EDMONTON, BY EDUCATION PRIOR TO MIGRATION

Years of Education Acquired	Percent Who Migrated Because Of . . .					
	Economic	Family	Travel	Educational	Personal	Other
<u>IMMIGRANTS</u>						
0 - 9 yrs.	27	40	7	5	9	12
10 - 12 "	36	17	13	2	5	27
Over 12 "	51	7	5	11	9	17
<u>INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS</u>						
0 - 9 yrs.	41	29	15	8	2	5
10 - 12 "	65	14	6	3	5	7
Over 12 "	41	9	10	28	4	8

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.



Among immigrants, the proportion who were attracted to Edmonton for economic reasons increased with education, rising to 51 percent for those with over 12 years of formal education. In the case of in-migrants, the proportion increased up to the 12-years level, then declined for those with over 12 years of formal education. Within this group, too, those with 10-12 years of formal education were predominantly attracted to Edmonton for economic reasons, 65 percent of the movement within this educational group being so accounted for.

The attraction of Edmonton for educational reasons was most pronounced among interprovincial migrants possessing the highest educational level. Twenty-eight percent of that group's movement was accounted for by educational factors, as compared to only 11 percent of immigrants with the same level of education. In the case of both migrant types, however, the educational motivation for migration was strongest amongst the most highly educated, and least amongst those with intermediate educational attainment.

The presence of relatives in the city and the desire for better living conditions were among the family factors which motivated the least educated migrants to come to Edmonton. Forty percent of the immigrants who possessed less than 10 years of formal education, compared to 29 percent of the interprovincial migrants, were so motivated. In the preceding section on "push" factors, almost the reverse held true, since 29 percent of the immigrants and 42 percent of the interprovincial migrants possessing less than 10 years



of formal education had been motivated to leave their place of origin because of family considerations.

It is interesting to note that although the economic motivation for migration was the single most important factor, 'two-thirds of all immigrant moves and roughly one-half of interprovincial moves were accounted for by non-economic attractive factors. An identical finding was revealed in the case of "push" factors'. In general, however, the analysis points to the fact that migrations stemming primarily from a desire to improve one's material conditions in life decreased with increasing age and level of education; migrations occurring primarily as the result of a desire to be close to relatives or friends, as the result of family changes or other family considerations also decreased with age and level of education, and was quite pronounced among the very young and among the least educated; migrations occurring as the result of educational motivation tended to decrease with age and increase with level of education, being pronounced among the most highly educated; and, finally, politically induced migrations were significant only among a select group of immigrants, namely, those in the 45-64 age group who generally possessed 12 years or less of formal education.



## Chapter V

### INTENTIONS CONCERNING FUTURE RESIDENCE IN EDMONTON

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter completes the basic analysis of post-war migrants in Edmonton with a discussion of an aspect of the migration process for which data are seldom made available. This aspect concerns the permanency of migration. Respondents were asked to state whether or not they intended to remain permanently in the province, and where they were most likely to go if they were to migrate again in the near future. Responses to the first question were then cross-tabulated with some important migrant characteristics, the results of which are reported in this chapter.

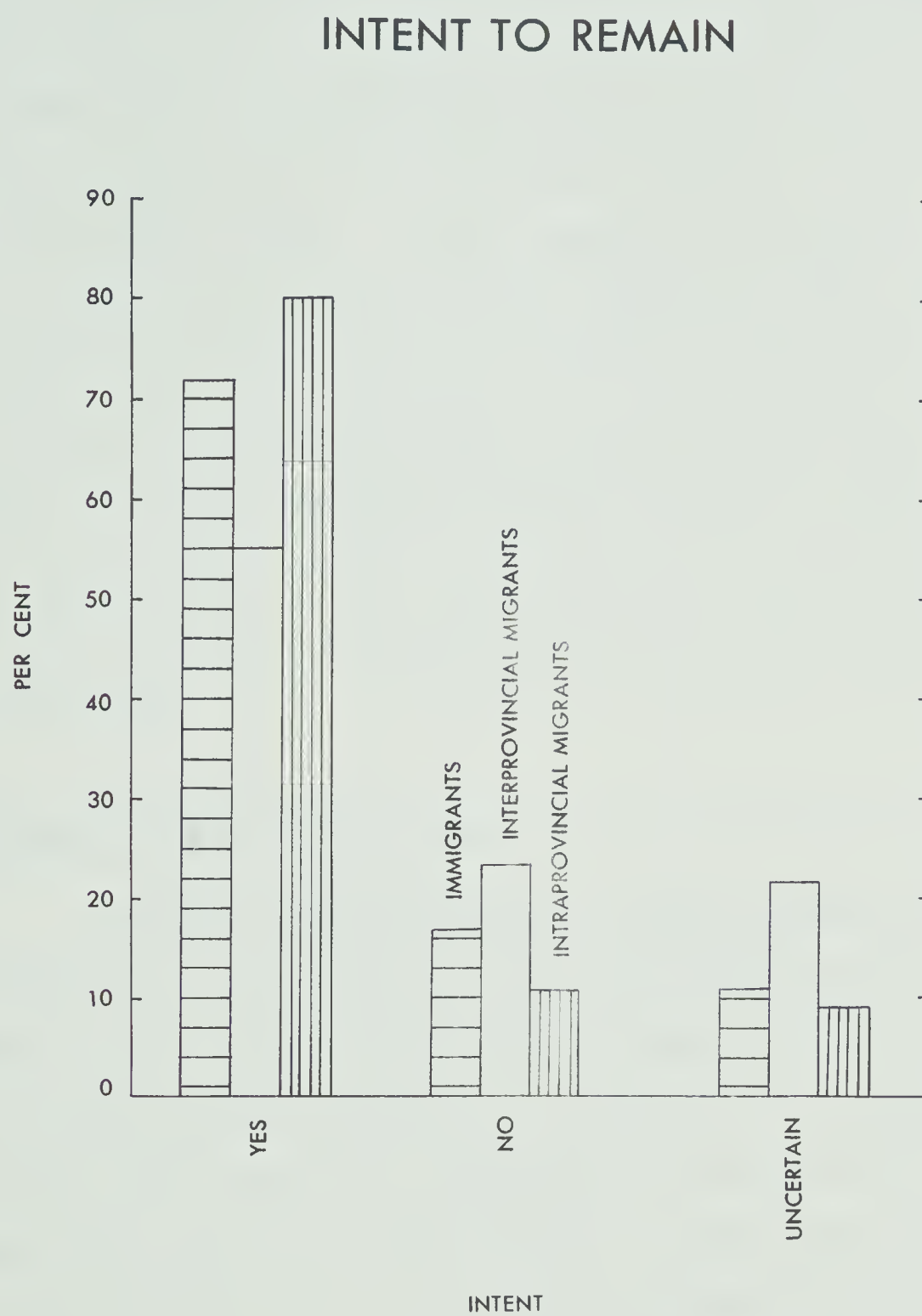
#### THE INTENT TO REMAIN

Figure 21 illustrates how migrants responded to the question concerning their intentions to remain permanently in Alberta. By far the largest proportion of the migrants said that they definitely planned to stay here. Intraprovincial migrants were the most certain of all migrants, as an overwhelming 81 per cent of them answered "yes". Immigrants followed, with 72 per cent; whereas only 55 per cent of the interprovincial migrants intended to remain. For the overall migrant group, 72.4 per cent intend to remain, 15.1 per cent have no intentions of remaining, and 12.6 per cent are uncertain about their future plans. Compared with the overall group, then, interprovincial





Figure 21



Source: Field Survey Data, 1971

M.S.K.



migrants appear to be the most unsettled and the most prone to move on again, whereas intraprovincial migrants are the most stable. This finding leads to the speculation as to whether interprovincial migrants are dissatisfied with conditions in Edmonton, and whether the movement of these persons resulted in more negative consequences than for the other two migrant groups. It might perhaps be of interest to analyse some relevant characteristics of these migrants in order to find a reasonable explanation. Those characteristics concern in the employment status of the migrants during the past year, their opinion concerning whether or not their employment plans were fulfilled in Edmonton, their tenure status, standard of living, likes and dislikes about the city and the province, and the number of previous migratory moves which they have made.

#### Employment Status in the Past Year

Information obtained during the survey revealed that 29 per cent of the interprovincial migrants were unemployed for various lengths of time during the past year, as compared to only 14 per cent of the intraprovincial migrants and 19 per cent of the immigrants. Although a small part of this percentage is accounted for by non-workers, this means that roughly one out of every three interprovincial migrants did not find steady employment during the last year. Altogether, the unemployed interprovincial migrants accounted for a substantial 8 per cent of the total number of post-war migrant heads of households in Edmonton. Comparative figures for intraprovincial



migrants and immigrants were 7 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. However, 8 per cent, or almost one-third of the unemployed interprovincial migrants were unemployed for the entire year, and another 21 per cent, or almost three-quarter of the group, were unemployed for 5 months or more.

Despite this relatively substantial unemployment figure, interprovincial migrants compared favourably with other post-war migrants in terms of yearly income. Sixty-nine per cent of them earned between \$6,000 and \$13,000, compared with the same proportion of intraprovincial migrants and 56 per cent of the immigrants. A little over 5 per cent of them also earned between \$13,000 and \$20,000 as compared to 8 per cent of intraprovincial migrants and immigrants.

#### Whether Job Plans Were Fulfilled as a Result of Migration to Edmonton

Respondents were asked to state whether or not they were engaged in the type of work which they had planned to do when they migrated. Half of the interprovincial migrants said "yes", 44 per cent said "no", and the rest were not sure. The figures indicate that these migrants had fulfilled their job plans to a greater degree than other migrants, for the entire intraprovincial group said that they had not fulfilled their plans, and 53 per cent of the immigrants had not either.

#### Tenure Status

Respondents were asked to state whether they owned or rented their present dwelling place. Interprovincial migrants were found to be



predominantly renters, 64 per cent of them being thus accounted for, as compared to 47 per cent of the intraprovincial migrants and 45 per cent of the immigrants. If owning a house can be taken as a significant measure of stability, immigrants are then found to be the most stable of the post-war migrants, 54 per cent of them being house owners, as compared to 52 per cent of the intraprovincial migrants and only 35 per cent of interprovincial migrants. The data on tenure status therefore support the answers given by interprovincial migrants concerning their intention to remain or not remain in Alberta.

#### Standard of Living

In keeping with their desire not to remain in the province, 59 per cent of the interprovincial migrants felt that their standard of living was either on par with or below that of the average person in the province. Comparable figures for intraprovincial migrants and immigrants were 48 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively. Moreover, 16 per cent of the interprovincial migrants considered their standard of living poor, and only 4 per cent were looking forward to improvement. For immigrants, comparable figures were 10 per cent and 2 per cent; and for intraprovincial migrants, 5 per cent and 8 per cent. Apparently, then, interprovincial migrants are the least satisfied with their present situation, and intraprovincial migrants are the most satisfied, with immigrants fitting in between the two.





## Likes and Dislikes About Alberta and Edmonton

In general, post-war migrants in Edmonton tend to have strong negative feelings towards the province of Alberta as well as towards the city of Edmonton. Immigrants appear to have stronger negative feelings towards the province, while in-migrants appear to have stronger negative feelings towards the city. Table 11 compares the distribution of migrants who disliked various aspects of life in Alberta and Edmonton.

TABLE 11 - DISLIKES ABOUT ALBERTA AND EDMONTON

Migrant Group	Percent Who Disliked Conditions in Alberta	Percent Who Disliked Conditions in Edmonton
Immigrants	75.7	68.0
Interprovincial Migrants	64.3	74.3
Intraprovincial Migrants	80.4	86.6

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

The weather, the physical environment in Alberta, the former provincial government, and the social atmosphere within the province were the things that irked interprovincial migrants most. The percentage represented by these were 40, 8, and 3, respectively. In addition, 47 percent disliked problems associated with the growth of the city, and the city administration. Immigrants and intraprovincial migrants also disliked these various aspects of the province and city, and almost to the same degree. Forty-seven percent of the immigrants disliked the



weather and physical environment in Alberta, as compared to 51 per cent of the intraprovincial migrants. On the other hand, 4 per cent of the immigrants and 6 per cent of the intraprovincial migrants disliked the former provincial government; whereas 5 per cent of the immigrants disliked the social atmosphere in Alberta, but no one among the intraprovincial migrants felt that there was anything wrong with the social life in the province. As far as the city was concerned, intraprovincial migrants disliked the administration and the growth problems of the city to an even greater extent than interprovincial migrants, 68 per cent of them having stated so. Only 34 per cent of the immigrants, however, were similarly bothered.

Among the things that pleased migrants about the city were its cleanliness and appearance. Thirteen per cent of the interprovincial migrants felt that the city was clean, and another 30 per cent of them liked its appearance. Comparable figures for immigrants and intraprovincial migrants were 15 per cent and 30 percent, and 10 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. An additional 10 per cent of each migrant group also mentioned liking the people of the city.

#### Number of Previous Migratory Moves Within Canada

A common measure of stability of a migrating unit is the number of times that unit has changed permanent residence, since a person is most likely to move again if he has grown accustomed to the idea of moving. Among post-war migrants to Edmonton, interprovincial migrants



have been found to be the most highly mobile. The survey data reveal that 26 percent of them claimed to have changed residence within Alberta 5-10 times since they first arrived in the province, and another 3 percent of them moved more than 10 times. These moves did not include residential changes within the city of Edmonton. Altogether, 87 percent of the interprovincial migrants had changed residence one or more times since arriving in Alberta.

On the contrary, 66 percent of the immigrants had never changed residence within Alberta, and 67 percent of them had never even lived outside of the province. Within the intraprovincial migrant group, 13 percent claimed to have moved 5-10 times within the province and another 7 percent moved more than 10 times.

When consideration is given to the fact that all the migrants have moved at least once before coming to Edmonton, the significance of previous moves in aiding further migration becomes evident. One can therefore deduce from the results given above that interprovincial migrants have grown most accustomed to the idea of migration, and are therefore most likely to migrate out of Edmonton in the future. The results thus add extra weight to the stated intention to leave which a large proportion of these migrants indicated. Nevertheless, judging from the results obtained in preceding parts of this chapter, one could say that if a migration were to take place it would be just as well caused by factors associated with unemployment, the migrant's perception of how he stood on the social scale in relation to the rest of the society, and with his negative attitude to physical or political



conditions in the region.

### Differences in Intent to Remain Among Sub-Categories of Migrants

Intention to remain or not remain shows significant variations within certain groups of the overall migrant population, and since such variations could have important implications for the future population structure of the city, they are analysed in this section. The characteristics subjected to analysis are age, marital status, education and occupation. In addition, a discussion of the migrants' reasons for migration cross-classified by intent to remain is also provided.

Table 12 summarizes the data for the four major age groups. It reveals that 95 per cent of all post-war immigrants who intend to remain permanently in Alberta are aged 20 to 64, and that 61 per cent are in the highly labour-force oriented age group of 20 to 44 years. These

TABLE 12 - INTENT TO REMAIN, BY AGE AT PRESENT, ALL MIGRANTS

Age Group	Intent		
	Yes	No	Uncertain
Under 20 years	1.4	----	2.6
20 - 44 years	61.1	85.4	82.8
45 - 64 years	34.3	13.2	14.6
Over 64 years	3.1	1.4	----

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

figures might seem good, but it will be seen that over 85 per cent of those







who intend to leave also belong to the labour-force oriented group, 20-44 years of age. This figure is indicative of the relatively higher mobility rate of this age group, but it also means that Edmonton can expect to lose a significant number of its residents from within this age group in the near future.

Some important differences within age groups are also revealed. Migrants in the 20-44 years age group are more likely to leave than to remain, and a significant proportion of them are uncertain about their future plans. Contrarily, migrants belonging to the 45-64 years age group are more prone to remain than to leave; and the most elderly migrants, those in the over 64 years age group, demonstrate a greater propensity to remain. No one within this latter group had any uncertainty as to his future plans; and no one among the under 20 years old intended to leave.

It is further revealed that those who plan to remain permanently in the province belong quite definitely to the married group (Table 13). Almost 80 per cent of those who plan to remain are married. Nevertheless, 75 per cent of those who plan to leave are also married, as are more than half of those who are uncertain about the future.

TABLE 13 - INTENT TO REMAIN, BY MARITAL STATUS

Marital Status	Intent		
	Yes	No	Uncertain
Married	79.4	75.0	52.7
Single	9.6	20.2	36.2
Divorced	3.6	4.8	9.4
Widowed	7.4	----	1.7

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971



Within the groups, married persons show an almost equal propensity to remain in Alberta as to leave; while single persons and divorced persons to be uncertain about their future plans. The latter two groups of migrants represented 36.2 per cent and 9.4 per cent of all those who indicated uncertainty about the future, as compared to 20.2 per cent and 4.8 per cent of those who definitely planned to leave, and 9.6 per cent and 3.6 per cent of those who planned to reside here permanently. At the other extreme were widowed persons. They showed a propensity to remain, and although some indicated an uncertainty about the future no one within this group demonstrated a desire to leave.

Table 14 summarizes the results for the educational subcategory. Among the groups, it is observed that 40 per cent of those who intend to reside here permanently have completed between 10 and 12 years of formal education. When these migrants are added to those who have completed less than 10 years of formal education, the figure reveals that almost 77 per cent of those migrants intending to remain have 12 years or less of formal education. This means that the most highly educated migrants are under-represented among those who plan to remain, and are over-represented among those who plan to leave.

TABLE 14 - INTENT TO REMAIN, BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL ATTAINED

Years of Education Attained	Yes	Intent No	Uncertain
Under 10 yrs.	36.8	12.3	14.8
10 - 12 yrs.	40.0	48.7	46.7
Over 12 yrs.	23.2	39.0	38.5

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.



Within groups, then, it is found that the greatest propensity to remain is shown among the least educated of all post-war migrants to Edmonton. These are the persons having less than 10 years of formal education. Migrants with an intermediate level of education show almost equal propensities to remain, as to leave or be uncertain about the future. Migrants with the highest level of education show a pronounced preference not to remain, but are almost equally prone to leave as to be uncertain about their future.

Table 15 gives the breakdown for the occupational groups.

TABLE 15 - INTENT TO REMAIN, BY PRESENT FULL-TIME OCCUPATION

Occupational Group	Yes	Intent No	Uncertain
Professional**	27.0	27.8	26.7
Clerical	5.8	2.4	0.6
Transport & Communication	10.6	6.9	3.5
Sales	4.7	16.4	5.1
Service & Recreation	20.0	15.4	4.9
Farmers & Related Workers	4.4	0.9	----
Craftsmen & Prod. Processing	28.0	15.4	17.3
Labourers	1.5	0.8	1.5
Non-Workers*	8.0	14.0	40.4

\*Comprise housewives and students.

\*\* Includes Managerial.

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

As the table shows, 75 per cent of those who plan to reside here permanently belong to three main occupational groups: professional, 27 per cent; service



and recreational, 20 per cent; and craftsmen and production processors, 28 per cent. These three groups were earlier identified as the main groups for employed migrants, and their relatively high percentage representations in this table is a probable reflection of this fact. Of the remaining 25 per cent of those migrants who plan to remain, 11 per cent are employed in transport and communication trades and 8 per cent are non-workers, comprised mostly of students.

Although 75 per cent of those who plan to remain belong to the three major occupational groups, a substantial proportion of those who plan to leave also belong to these groups. Almost 59 per cent of this latter migrant type are accounted for by the three occupational groups, professionals predominating with 27.8 per cent representation; service and recreation workers, 15.4 per cent; and craftsmen and production processors, 15.4 per cent. Sales workers made up the next largest group of migrants with plans to leave, and these are followed by non-workers. Comparative figures for these two groups are 16.4 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.

Migrants demonstrating uncertainty about the future belong mostly to the non-working group. Forty-seven per cent are so accounted for. The percentage represented is significant because Edmonton is a major University center and profits by its attraction to students. This group is followed by professionals, 26.7 per cent; and by craftsmen and production processors, 17.3 per cent.

Within groups, professionals revealed an almost equal propensity to remain as to want to leave or be uncertain about the future.







Sales workers showed a pronounced propensity to leave. Service and recreation workers tended more to want to remain than to leave. Craftsmen and production processors were more prone to remain, but a substantial proportion of them were also either uncertain, or had definite plans to leave. Students and other non-workers showed a pronounced propensity to be uncertain as to the future, and the percentage variations within the remaining groups were not pronounced.

The question has often been asked whether a migrant's desire to stay in a place is influenced by the factors which motivated him to leave his origin in the first place. Table 16 summarizes the cross-tabulation of these two variables.

TABLE 16 - INTENT TO REMAIN, BY REASONS FOR MIGRATING

Reasons for Leaving	Yes	<u>Intent</u> No	Uncertain
Economic	54.6	47.6	54.0
Family	18.5	17.2	21.9
Travel/Adventure	11.7	18.3	----
Educational	2.1	7.7	12.0
Political	----	----	----
Other	13.2	9.2	12.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

The table shows that more than half of those post-war migrants who intend to reside permanently in Alberta were originally motivated to migrate by



economic factors, and another one-third by family considerations and the desire to travel. Among those who plan to leave, almost 48 percent were motivated by economic factors, 17 percent by family considerations and 18 percent by the desire to travel. On the other hand, 54 percent of those who are uncertain about the future were originally motivated by economic considerations, and 22 percent by family factors. In addition, 12 percent of the "uncertain" group were motivated by educational considerations, as compared to 8 percent of those who definitely plan to leave and 2 percent of those who plan to remain.

Within groups, the data reveal that migrants who were originally motivated by economic considerations show an almost equal propensity to remain as to be uncertain about their future plans, although a substantial proportion of them also had definite plans to leave. A similar finding is shown for migrants motivated by family considerations, and by those motivated by "other" factors. On the other hand, migrants who had been motivated by a desire to travel and explore new places showed a pronounced desire to leave, and no one within this group showed any uncertainty about the future. Finally, migrants who were motivated by educational considerations showed a propensity to be uncertain about the future, although they were more likely to have definite plans to leave than to stay.

#### SUMMARY

Most post-war migrants to Edmonton reveal a desire to remain



permanently in Alberta. Of the entire migrant population, only 15 per-cent felt that they would definitely leave in the near future, and 13 percent were uncertain. Interprovincial migrants showed the least desire to remain, and intraprovincial migrants showed the greatest desire to do so. The seemingly transient interprovincial migrant group was shown to be made up of highly mobile persons who had grown accustomed to migration as a way of life. They outnumbered immigrants and intraprovincial migrants in the number of previous moves made. They also appeared to be more dissatisfied with their present living conditions in Alberta than the other migrants, and this, coupled with their high mobility rate, could possibly be cited as the reason for their wanting to move on again.

The propensity to either remain or leave showed varying relationships with the age, marital status, education and occupation of the migrants. However, in general it can be said that those who plan to remain consist mainly of Alberta-born migrants, persons aged 20-44 years, the married, the average-to-under-educated, those who belong to one of three occupational groups: craftsmen and production processing; professional; or service and recreation, and those who were originally motivated by economic factors of migration.

Where would the migrant go if he were to move out of Alberta? This question was asked of all respondents during the field survey, and the responses are given in Table 17. It would seem from the results shown there that British Columbia holds the greatest attraction for internal migrants, particularly for those born in Alberta. Almost



TABLE 17- INTENDED PLACE OF FUTURE RESIDENCE, ALL MIGRANTS

Place	Immigrants	Interprovincial Migrants	Intraprovincial Migrants
B. C.	19.1	31.4	65.8
Saskatchewan	5.3	9.8	----
Manitoba	----	1.8	----
Ontario	6.3	12.1	----
U.S.A.	2.2	4.7	----
Britain	5.7	----	----
Ireland	5.2	----	----
Netherland	2.5	----	----
Portugal	3.1	----	----
West Indies	----	----	8.4
Greece	2.1	5.9	----
Home	10.1	3.9	8.7
OTHER	8.5	----	----
Don't Know	30.0	30.4	17.1

Source: Field Survey Data, 1971.

66 percent of these intraprovincial migrants who plan to leave intend to move on to British Columbia, compared with 31.4 percent of the interprovincial migrants and 19.1 percent of the immigrants. Among the other provinces in Canada, Ontario held the next highest attraction, but not for intraprovincial migrants. In fact, no one among the intraprovincial group desired to go to any other part of Canada except British Columbia or back to their home town. Seventeen percent of them did not know exactly where they would move to, and the remaining 8.4 percent intended to go to the West Indies. However, 12 percent of the interprovincial migrants planned to go to Ontario, as did 6 percent of the immigrants. Saskatchewan was next on the list for interprovincial migrants, almost 10 percent of them indicating that they planned to go there. But more immigrants wanted to return to their homeland or move on to another country. It is perhaps also significant to note that almost one-third





of the immigrants and interprovincial migrants who planned to leave had no idea of where they would be moving on to next.



## Chapter VI

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

#### Review of Aims, Theoretical Framework, Data

As stated in the opening chapter this study is mainly concerned with migration to Edmonton in the period following the end of the Second World War, that is, the past twenty-five years. The aim was to fill some of the gaps in information about local migration dynamics by measuring and describing the volume, trends and characteristics of movement of persons to the city during the time period under discussion using mainly data gathered during a field survey of post-war migrant households in Edmonton.

The discussion is set within the "Push-Pull" framework of migration analysis. The variables selected for analysis were not planned to statistically test any major hypotheses of migration. Rather, some of the general hypotheses of the "Push-Pull" theory are used as guidelines in discussing various aspects of the migration phenomenon in Edmonton. The concern is with the differences revealed among migrants with different characteristics such as age, education, and occupation; and also with the manner in which these migrants responded to the push and pull of factors of migration.

The spatial units employed in the analysis are: (a) the city of Edmonton, as delimited in 1966, which constitutes the place of destination for all movers; (b) the provinces of Canada which



are the places of origin of internal migrants. The Maritime provinces are treated as one province, and so, too, are the two territories; (c) the rest of the world, representing the sum total of the places of origin for international migrants.

Because of the nature of the investigation, it seemed desirable at the same time to examine other data, more specifically census data, in order to provide an historical perspective of general population trends in Edmonton, as well as a comparative analysis of population characteristics between the post-war migrants and the overall population in Edmonton. It is believed that the data and the discussion presented in the analysis have at least partially accomplished the objective of the study and that they should contribute to enriching the body of information needed on the basic aspects of migration to the city.

### Summary of Findings

The post-war period in the history of Edmonton has been characterized by a favourable economic climate consequent upon the development of the oil and gas industry, and by a corresponding boom areal growth and population development. The movement of persons to the city during this period has contributed in no little measure to this development. In fact, migration has been of



greater magnitude during the post-war period than during any period of similar length of time in Edmonton's history. This has almost wholly been a reflection of the economic expansion which has been underway since the discovery of oil in 1947.

Research findings on the migrants indicate that the major sending countries for post-war immigrants during the period were Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and Italy. This distribution is more precisely seen as a reflection of Canadian governmental immigration policy in encouraging the movement of these persons to the country. Apparently, the major changes which were made in policy after 1967 have not yet begun to effect the distribution of immigrants in Edmonton.

The major sending provinces in Canada for post-war internal migrants were Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. This reflects the movement of persons between other urban areas of the country and Edmonton, as well as the movement out of economically disadvantaged areas and rural areas to the city. It is also indicative of the ease which internal migrants generally experience in overcoming the major intervening obstacles to migration. As such, support is given to the theory that internal migrants tend to gravitate from rural to urban areas, from small to large urban areas, and between metropolitan areas.

Research findings also point to the fact that migration to Edmonton in the post-war period is selective of marital status, age, education, and occupation. Generally speaking, migrants





tended to be single, aged 20-34 years, of average education, and to belong to either of two skilled occupational groups, namely, Professional and Craftsmen and Production Processing. A number of important differences were observed among migrants, however. For example, at the time of migration, immigrants tended to be divided almost equally between the married and single categories, and their modal age was 25-29 years. Intraprovincial migrants, on the other hand, tended to be mostly single, and their modal age was under 20 years.

For the entire post-war period, the past decade, 1961-1970, has seen the largest proportion of migrants take up residence in Edmonton. Yet, a substantial proportion of the migrants have been resident here for 15 years or more.

The movement of persons to Edmonton is found to be definitely motivated by the desire of the migrants to improve their material conditions in life. Most migrants say their main motivation for leaving their place of origin was economic in nature. The economic motivation also was dominant over other factors in choosing Edmonton as their place of origin. Significant differences are revealed within migrant groups, however, and family ties, political considerations, and the desire to travel and explore new places figured largely as other motivating factors given by sub-categories of migrants. The economic motive seemed to predominate among the "economically active" sub-category of migrants, that is, those persons aged 20-44 years at the time of migration.



Most post-war migrants indicate a desire to reside permanently in the province, and most seem satisfied with the material conditions of life in the province. Despite this, by far the greatest majority of them tend to have strong dislikes for a variety of conditions in the province and in the city of Edmonton. Interprovincial migrants reveal the strongest tendency to want to leave in the near future. Among those indicating that they will definitely migrate again in the near future, substantial proportions are represented also in various sub-categories of migrants, such as the married, the highly educated, professionals, and the young. This has important implications for city planning officials who need to provide adequate incentives to maintain a hold on the most desirable migrants or at least plan sensibly for a unstable population. Migrants who plan to leave also reveal a strong attraction to British Columbia, an attraction probably conditioned by knowledge of superior economic opportunities in that province. A significant number of those migrants planning to leave also intend to return to their place of birth.

### Implications of the Analysis

There was agreement with past migration research, and it was expected that there would have been agreement, on many of the



findings in the present research. No major contradictions in migrant type nor deviations from the pattern of migration decision making were uncovered.

The separation of migrants into the three major types appear justified in terms of the number of important differences which the analysis uncovered not only between internal and international migrants, but also between the two internal migrant groups, and among all three migrant groups. Particularly noticeable were the ways in which interprovincial migrants differed from immigrants in terms of age, marital status, and education at the time of migration; and the ways in which intraprovincial migrants differed from interprovincial migrants in terms of factors which motivated sub-categories of these migrants.

The definition of migration employed in the analysis proved to be an adequately workable one. It simplified the analysis by eliminating much of the concern that one would normally have with the behavioural aspects of the migration phenomenon or with the concern about social mobility which often follows or precedes the actual change of residence. Migration is, after all, a geographical phenomenon, a fundamental action of man on the face of the earth. It is not too difficult to lose sight of the "fact" of migration while concentrating on the "factors" of migration.



### Suggestions for Further Research

The findings revealed in this study point to the many limitations and unanswered questions in the analysis. The limitations are due, in part, to the inability to use much of the migration data collected in Edmonton for post-war migrants, to the absence or inadequacies of census data required for specific analyses, and to the constraints of time. The objectives of the study dictated that use be made of only a small portion of the data obtained during the field survey of the migrants. These data provide a fund of information for further analysis, not only for the Edmonton area but also for Calgary and have implications for all kinds of migration and demographic research.

For example, there is need for detailed examinations of the experience of Edmonton in terms of other areas in Alberta, for even within the province the conclusions from migration research at the city level of areal units cannot be transferred automatically to another level such as the provincial or village level.

There is also a need to provide in-depth analyses of each of the three migrant types identified in this study; to analyse migration flows between Edmonton and each place of origin; and to update the findings as conditions in Edmonton change in time.

For future researchers who are desirous of attempting it, a higher level of explanation than that achieved in this research





might be obtained by isolating components of the major independent variables identified in this study, or other relevant variables, and subjecting these to various sophisticated statistical analyses. The computer facilitates the handling of large quantities of data, and multivariate analysis provides a means of analysing such data. Principal components analysis, factor analysis, simple and multiple regression analysis are methods used in past research to analyse migration data and could be applied to the data collected for Edmonton and Calgary.

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## APPENDICES



APPENDIX ASURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

1a. Where were you born?  
(If outside Canada, mark country according to present boundary)

- 01 Canada
- 02 Britain
- 03 Ireland
- 04 Germany
- 05 Italy
- 06 Netherlands
- 07 Portugal
- 08 U.S.S.R. (including the Ukraine)
- 09 Poland
- 10 Other E. European
- 11 U.S.A.
- 12 Greece
- 13 Other (Specify)
- 14 Not Stated (N.S.)

1b. (If born in Canada, ask)  
In which province were you born?

- 1 Alberta
- 2 Saskatchewan
- 3 Manitoba
- 4 British Columbia
- 5 Ontario
- 6 Maritimes
- 7 Quebec
- 8 Other (N.W.T.; Yukon)
- 9 N.S.

1c. Where in this province were you born?

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1d. Was this a

- 1 . . . large town or city?
- 2 . . . small town?
- 3 . . . farm or country?
- 4 . . . N.S.



2. What place do you now consider to be your home?

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3. In what year did you first move to

(a) Canada \_\_\_\_\_ ?

(b) Alberta \_\_\_\_\_ ?

(c) Edmonton \_\_\_\_\_ ?

4a. How many persons are there in your household?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four
- 5 Five
- 6 Six
- 7 Seven
- 8 Eight or more
- 9 N.S.

4b. What is your age?

- 01 Under 19
- 02 20-24
- 03 25-29
- 04 30-34
- 05 35-39
- 06 40-44
- 07 45-49
- 08 50-54
- 09 55-59
- 10 60-64
- 11 65-69
- 12 70 or over
- 13 N.S.

4c. How old were you when you left your place of birth?

\_\_\_\_\_ years





4d. (Ask only if over 16 years in Q.4c.)  
What was your marital status when you left your place of birth?

- 1 Married
- 2 Single
- 3 Separated
- 4 Divorced
- 5 Widowed
- 6 N.S.

4e(1). What is your present marital status?

- 1 Married
- 2 Single
- 3 Separated
- 4 Divorced
- 5 Widowed
- 6 N.S.

4e(2). How many live children have been born to you and your  
(former, late) wife (husband)?

- 1 No children
- 2 One
- 3 Two
- 4 Three
- 5 Four
- 6 Five
- 7 More than five
- 8 N.S.

4f. How many years of formal education do you have?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

4g. What type of education have you completed?

- 1 Elementary school
- 2 Some high school
- 3 Completed high school
- 4 Some University
- 5 University degree
- 6 Vocational
- 7 Other (Specify)
- 8 N.S.



4h. How many years of education did you have before you came to Alberta or Canada?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

4i. What type of education did you have before you came to Alberta or Canada?

- 1 Elementary school
- 2 Some high school
- 3 Completed high school
- 4 Some University
- 5 University degree
- 6 Vocational
- 7 Other (Specify)
- 8 N.S.

4j. How many years of education have you acquired in Alberta or Canada?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

4k. What type of education have you acquired in Alberta or Canada?

- 1 Elementary school
- 2 Some high school
- 3 High school
- 4 Some University
- 5 University degree
- 6 Vocational
- 7 Other (Specify)
- 8 N.S.

5a. What is your nationality?

\_\_\_\_\_

5b. What ethnic group do you belong to?

\_\_\_\_\_

5c. What is the ethnic-racial group of your father (Probe)?

\_\_\_\_\_



6a. What made you decide to leave your old country?

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6b. Why did you choose Canada when you decided to leave your old country?

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6c. Which province did you first go to?

- 01 Alberta
- 02 Ontario
- 03 Quebec
- 04 British Columbia
- 05 Manitoba
- 06 Saskatchewan
- 07 Maritimes
- 08 Other (N.W.T.; Yukon)
- 09 No special province
- 10 Don't Know (D.K.)
- 11 N.S.

7a. What made you decide to leave your previous province?

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7b. Why did you decide to come to Alberta?

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7c. Why did you finally come to Edmonton?


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8a. Do you plan to remain permanently in Alberta?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

8b.  (If No, ask)  
Where do you plan to go?

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8c. Before you left your country, how did you get to know about Alberta?

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9a. What was the name of the city, town or village, where you first arrived in Alberta?

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9b. Where or with whom did you stay in Alberta on the day of your first arrival?

- 1 With relatives
- 2 With friends from old country (province)
- 3 Other friends





- 4 Hotel, Motel, etc.
- 5 Y.M.C.A.; Y.W.C.A. (Public Organizations)
- 6 House, Apartment
- 7 Other
- 8 N.S.

10. How long did you stay at this first place?

- 1 Less than a week
- 2 One to two weeks
- 3 Three to four weeks
- 4 Two months
- 5 Three to four months
- 6 Five to six months
- 7 Seven to twelve months
- 8 More than a year
- 9 N.S.

11a. Before you moved to your present home, how many times did you change your address in Alberta?

- 1 Never
- 2 Less than two times
- 3 Three times
- 4 Four times
- 5 Five to ten times
- 6 More than ten times
- 7 Many times
- 8 Can't remember
- 9 N.S.

11b. How many different places in Alberta besides Edmonton have you ever lived in?

- 1 None
- 2 Less than three
- 3 Three places
- 4 Four places
- 5 Five to ten places
- 6 More than ten places
- 7 Many places
- 8 Can't remember
- 9 N.S.

11c. Besides Alberta, what other provinces have you ever lived in for more than three months?

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11d. How many times have you changed your address in Edmonton in the last 5 years?

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12a. What members of your family came first to Canada?

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12b. What other members of your family came later?

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12c. How long after the arrival of your . . . (See Q. 12a.), did your . . . (See Q. 12b.) come to Canada?

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13. Who provided your passage to come to Canada?

- 1 Self
- 2 Relatives in Canada
- 3 Relatives at home
- 4 Friends
- 5 Government
- 6 Came with parents
- 7 Other
- 8 N.S.



14a. How many rooms are there in this house (apartment), that is, kitchens, bedrooms, living rooms and finished rooms in the attic or basement? (Do not count bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms used primarily for business purposes)

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four
- 5 Five
- 6 Six
- 7 Seven
- 8 Eight or more
- 9 D.K.

14b. Is this house (apartment) owned by you or by a member of your household, or is it rented?

- 1 Rented
- 2 Owned by respondent and/or spouse
- 3 Owned by relatives
- 4 Free rent in lieu of work
- 5 Other (Specify)
- 6 D.K.
- 7 N.S.

14c. → After you started to work in Alberta, how long did it take you to get your own house?

- 1 Less than one year
- 2 Two years
- 3 Three years
- 4 Four years
- 5 Five years
- 6 Six to eight years
- 7 Nine to ten years
- 8 More than ten years
- 9 D.K.

14d. → Could you tell me what mortgage you pay each month?

- 1 Less than \$50
- 2 \$50 - \$99
- 3 \$100 - \$124
- 4 \$125 - \$149
- 5 \$150 - \$174
- 6 \$175 - \$199



- 7     \$200 and more
- 8     Pay no mortgage
- 9     N.S.

14e.     Do you own any (other) property?

- 1     Yes
- 2     No
- 3     D.K.
- 4     N.S.

14f. → Is it in Canada or elsewhere?

- 1     Canada
- 2     Elsewhere
- 3     Canada and elsewhere
- 4     N.S.

15a.     (Ask only renters)

Could you tell me what rent you pay each month?

- 1     Less than \$50
- 2     \$50 - \$99
- 3     \$100 - \$149
- 4     \$150 - \$199
- 5     \$200 - \$249
- 6     \$250 - \$299
- 7     \$300 and over
- 8     D.K.
- 9     N.S.

15b.     Do you plan to buy a house within the next three years?

- 1     Go on renting
- 2     Buy within three years
- 3     D.K.
- 4     N.S.

16a.     Do most people you know well belong to your ethnic group?

- 1     Yes
- 2     No
- 3     D.K.
- 4     N.S.





16b. If you had a choice, would you rather live in an area where most people were of the same ethnic group as yourself?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't care
- 4 D.K.
- 5 N.S.

16c. Why do you feel that way?

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17. What do you consider to be the yearly income of an average Canadian?

- 01 Under \$1,500
- 02 \$1,500 - \$2,999
- 03 \$3,000 - \$4,499
- 04 \$4,500 - \$5,999
- 05 \$6,000 - \$7,499
- 06 \$7,500 - \$9,999
- 07 \$10,000 - \$12,999
- 08 \$13,000 - \$15,999
- 09 \$16,000 - \$18,999
- 10 \$19,000 or more
- 11 D.K.
- 12 N.S.

18. Which class do you belong to?

- 1 Upper
- 2 Middle
- 3 Lower
- 4 Working
- 5 Other (Specify)
- 6 Class doesn't exist
- 7 D.K.
- 8 N.S.

19a. What is your religion?

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19b. Do you attend a church which caters mainly for your ethnic group?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

19c. (If religion stated, ask)  
How many times have you attended services at church/synagogue in the last four weeks?

- 1 Not at all
- 2 Once
- 3 Twice
- 4 Three times
- 5 Four or more times
- 6 D.K.
- 7 N.S.

20a. Of what country are you a citizen?

- 1 Canada
- 2 Country of birth
- 3 Other
- 4 D.K.
- 5 N.S.

20b. Do you plan to become a Canadian citizen?

- 1 Definitely yes
- 2 Probably yes
- 3 Uncertain
- 4 Definitely no
- 5 N.S.

20c. Why do some people who qualify for Canadian citizenship not apply for it?

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21a. What language did you speak when you were a child?

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(If mother tongue English, skip to Q.22a)

21b. Have you found difficulties in getting along in your daily life because your mother tongue is not English?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 N.S.

21c. What language do you most often use at home when speaking to your wife?

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21d. What language do you most often use at home when speaking to your children?

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21e. When your children speak to you, what language do they use?

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21f. When your children speak to each other, what language do they use?

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21g. What language do you most often use at work?

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22a. Before coming to Alberta, was your last home in a village, farm, a small town, or in a large town or city?

- 1 Large town or city
- 2 Small town
- 3 Village, farm or country
- 4 Other
- 5 N.S.



22b. When you first arrived in Alberta, did you first settle in a:

- 1 Large town or city
- 2 Small town
- 3 Village or country
- 4 Other
- 5 N.S.

23a. When you first came to Alberta, did you have any problems:

	Yes	No	D.K.	N.S.	Inap
Getting a job	1	2	3	4	0
Finding Somewhere to live	1	2	3	4	0
English Language	1	2	3	4	0
Ways of life in Alberta	1	2	3	4	0
City Life	1	2	3	4	0
Loneliness	1	2	3	4	0
Other problems	1	2	3	4	0

23b. Since you arrived in Alberta, have you ever made use of any of the following organizations or facilities?

	Yes	No	D.K.	N.S.	Inap
Manpower Centre	1	2	3	4	0
English Language Classes	1	2	3	4	0
Services of the Federal Immigration Branch	1	2	3	4	0
Inter-Faith Organization	1	2	3	4	0
Other Organizations Specializing in help or advice to immigrants	1	2	3	4	0





24a. Did you work in your former country or province?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

24b. → (If Yes, ask)  
What was your last main occupation there?

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24c. Since you came to Alberta, how many times did you change your job?

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24d. How long did it take you to find your:

- (a) Present job?
- (b) First job
- (c) Second job?

How long did you work at this job?

- (a) Present job
- (b) First job
- (c) Second job

25a. During this last week, were you working:

- 1 Full time?
- 2 Part-time?
- 3 Both full-time and part-time?
- 4 Not at all?



25b. What is the main reason for not working?

- 1 Temporary lay-off
- 2 Looking for work
- 3 On strike, vacation, illness
- 4 Permanently unable to work
- 5 Retired, idle
- 6 Going to school
- 7 Domestic duties
- 8 Other (Specify)
- 9 D.K.

25c. What is (was) your main full-time occupation?

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25d. How did you find your present job?

- 1 Through friends or relatives in Canada
- 2 Through the Canada Manpower Centre
- 3 Through Provincial agencies
- 4 Through own inquiry
- 5 Other (specify)
- 6 D.K.
- 7 N.S.

25e. During the last 12 months, have you been unemployed?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

25f. → For how many weeks?

---



25g. Are you now doing the type of work you planned to do when you left your country (province)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

25h. → Why not?

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25i. How many persons over 16 years of age in your household work?

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25j. Who are the people who work?

- 1 Husband
- 2 Wife
- 3 One child
- 4 Two children
- 5 Mother
- 6 Father
- 7 Other relatives
- 8 Other persons, not relatives

26a. Since you first came to Canada, have you paid any visits to your former country?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 N.S.

26b. → What was the longest period of time you spent there?

- 1 Two weeks or less
- 2 Two weeks to one month
- 3 One to two months
- 4 Two to four months
- 5 Four to six months
- 6 Six to twelve months
- 7 More than one year
- 8 N.S.



27a. Have you ever encouraged people from your old country to come to Alberta?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 N.S.

27b. Have you ever helped them in:  
. . . getting a job?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 N.S.

. . . finding a place to live?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 N.S.

. . . paying their passage?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 N.S.

28. How is life in Alberta different from life in your old country?

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29a. Why do you think people sometimes leave Alberta for other provinces in Canada?

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29b. Why do you think some people leave Alberta to live permanently abroad?

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30. Where was your mother born?

---

31. Where was your father born?

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32a. How many dependents do you have abroad that you intend to send for?

- 1 None
- 2 One
- 3 Two
- 4 Three
- 5 Four
- 6 Five
- 7 Six or more
- 8 N.S.

32b. → How much longer will it take you to have all of these dependents in Canada?

- 1 Less than six months
- 2 One year
- 3 Two years
- 4 Three years
- 5 Four years
- 6 Five years
- 7 Six years or more
- 8 D.K.
- 9 N.S.



Now, I would like you to give me your opinion on the following:

33a. The opportunities for your children

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33b. Your standard of living

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33c. The way of life of young people today

---

---

33d. More immigrants coming here

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34a. Do you think the immigration laws of this country should be changed?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

34b. In what ways should they be changed?

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35. How many children do you think an average Canadian family should have?

- 1 No children
- 2 One child
- 3 Two children
- 4 Three children
- 5 Four children
- 6 Five children
- 7 More than five children
- 8 Any number
- 9 N.S.

36a. (Show income card)

Using this card, please tell me the number of the category in which your yearly earnings (that is, wages and salaries) falls.

- 01 Under \$1,500
- 02 \$1,500 - \$2,999
- 03 \$3,000 - \$4,499
- 04 \$4,500 - \$5,999
- 05 \$6,000 - \$7,499
- 06 \$7,500 - \$9,999
- 07 \$10,000 - \$12,999
- 08 \$13,000 - \$15,999
- 09 \$16,000 - \$18,999
- 10 \$19,000 or more
- 11 D.K.
- 12 N.S.

36b. Also using this card, please tell me the total earnings of your entire family from all sources. Include wages, salaries, rents, investment income, and so on, for all persons.

- 01 Under \$1,500
- 02 \$1,500 - \$2,999
- 03 \$3,000 - \$4,499
- 04 \$4,500 - \$5,999
- 05 \$6,000 - \$7,499
- 06 \$7,500 - \$9,999
- 07 \$10,000 - \$12,999
- 08 \$13,000 - \$15,999
- 09 \$16,000 - \$18,999
- 10 \$19,000 or more
- 11 D.K.
- 12 N.S.



37a. In your opinion, is there any ethnic discrimination in Alberta?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

37b. → What groups experience such discrimination?

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37c. → What kinds of discrimination do they experience?

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37d. Have you personally experienced ethnic discrimination?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 D.K.
- 4 N.S.

38a. If you were eligible, would you vote in a federal, provincial or municipal election?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 It depends
- 4 D.K.
- 5 N.S.





38b. At such an election, would you prefer to vote for a person of your own ethnic group?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Doesn't matter
- 4 It depends
- 5 D.K.
- 6 N.S.

39. When you were sixteen years old, what was the main occupation of your father or whoever was responsible for the support of the household?

---

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40. How much money does your family send out of Canada on the average per month?

- 1 No money
- 2 Not much
- 3 Less than \$25
- 4 \$25 - \$49
- 5 \$50 - \$74
- 6 \$75 - \$99
- 7 \$100 - \$199
- 8 \$200 or more
- 9 D.K.

41a. What do you like most about Alberta?

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41b. What do you dislike most about Alberta?

---

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41c. What do you like most about this city?

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41d. What do you dislike most about this city?

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# APPENDIX B

SAMPLE OF COMPUTER OUT-PUT USING SUB-PROGRAMME "CROSSTABS" OF THE S.P.S.S.\*

OUTPUT FOR ECC0002H

09/09/71

PAGE 56

FILE FINAL CREATION DATE = 08/21/71)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 VAR047 NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD  
 CONTROLING FOR  
 VAR070 WHETHER PLANS PERMANENT STAY IN ALBERTA  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 BY GROUP  
 VALUE = 2.00 ND  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 TYPE OF RESPONDENT  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 PAGE 1 OF 1

GROUP	COUNT	IMMI-IGRANT	ALBERTAN	MIGRANT	ROW TOTAL
VAR047	ROW PCT	COL PCT	TOT PCT		
ONE	1.00	81	59.3	492	1409
		5.7	23.3	13.0	14.2
		3.2	8.4	5.0	
TWO	2.00	749	1162	1203	3115
		24.1	37.3	38.6	31.5
		29.8	32.4	31.7	
		7.6	11.7	12.2	
THREE	3.00	756	0	1020	1776
		42.5	0.0	57.5	17.9
		30.1	0.0	26.9	
		7.6	0.0	10.3	
FOUR	4.00	492	1032	580	2104
		23.4	49.1	27.6	21.3
		19.6	28.8	15.3	
		5.0	10.4	5.9	
FIVE	5.00	66	0	53	118
		55.5	0.0	44.5	1.2
		2.6	0.0	1.4	
		0.7	0.0	0.5	
SIX	6.00	369	556	395	1319
		28.0	42.1	29.9	13.3
		14.7	15.5	10.4	
		3.7	5.6	4.0	
SEVEN	7.00	0	0	55	55
		0.0	0.0	100.0	0.6
		0.0	0.0	1.5	
		0.0	0.0	0.6	
COLUMN TOTAL		2512	3586	3798	9896
		25.4	36.2	38.4	100.0

\* Statistical Package for the Social Sciences.











**B29994**